Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-187
Thursday
28 September 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-187 *28 September 1989*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Warns U.S. About 'Arafat Visa *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Al-Hasan Interviewed on Confederation, Visa *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Egypt Reportedly Proposes 12-Member Delegation *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 26 Sep]* 2
Leader Comments on 10-Point Plan, Intifadah *[MENA]* 2
UNESCO Executive To Recommend PLO Admission *[AFP]* 3
Yasir 'Arafat Departs Sanaa 27 Sep *[Sanaa Radio]* 3
'Arafat Confers With PRC Foreign Minister *[Baghdad VOP]* 3
Official Views Talks With Israel, U.S. Position *[AL-WATAN 25 Sep]* 3
PLO Representative in Amman Interviewed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 26 Sep]* 3
Al-Yahya Address at Economic Seminar Reported *[JORDAN TIMES 27 Sep]* 4

OPEC Affairs

Ministerial Monitoring Committee Meets 27 Sep 5
Production Ceiling Raised *[INA]* 5
Ceiling Raised by 1 Million BPD *[Vienna OPECNA]* 5
Kuwait Considers Itself Not Bound *[AFP]* 5
Subroto on 'Spirit of Cooperation' *[Vienna OPECNA]* 6
Iraqi Oil Minister Cited *[INA]* 6
Algeria Dissatisfied *[APS]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak WASHINGTON POST Interview Cited *[MENA]* 8
President Mubarak on Official Visit to France *[cross-reference]* 8
'Abd-al-Majid Comments on 10-Point Plan *[MENA]* 9
Chief of Staff on Joint Exercises, French Visit *[MENA]* 9
Haykal Comments on Rabin Visit to Cairo *[AL-AHRAM 24 Sep]* 9
Columnist Hails Saudi Executions, Urges Caution *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 26 Sep]* 14
Investment Companies Banned From Speculating *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Paper Reports on Foreign Currency 'Crisis' *[AL-WAFD 25 Sep]* 15
FRG To Donate DM663 Million in Aid, Credits *[AL-AHRAM 25 Sep]* 15

Libya

Reopener on Al-Qadhdhafi 26 Sep Speech *[JANA]* 15

Sudan

Minister on Iranian 'Insult,' Department 'Purge' *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Sep]* 18
Leftists Reportedly Planning Strikes Arrested *[BBC]* 18
President Says SPLA Soldiers Deserting *[Dakar PANA]* 18
Minister on Need for Water Cooperation With Egypt *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
Deadline for Registration of Aliens Extended *[SUNA]* 19
New SUNA Director General Appointed *[Omdurman Radio]* 19

Tunisia

Justice Minister Replaces Hedi Baccouche *[Tunis Radio]* 19
New Prime Minister's Statement *[Tunis Radio]* 19
Baccouche Wishes Karoui Success *[Tunis Radio]* 20
Foreign Minister Cited on Ties With Egypt *[Cairo AL-AHRAM 26 Sep]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government Supports Sentences on Mosque Bombers *[Riyadh Radio]* 21
Amir Visits France, Meets With Mitterrand *[cross-reference]* 21

Saudia Arabia

Bangladesh Group Threatens King Over Beheadings *[AFP]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Ship Carrying Toxic Waste Reportedly Changes Name *[AL-BAYAN 26 Sep]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Groups Attending Celebration 21
Meets With PDRY Delegation *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Receives Libyan Delegation *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Husayn Chairs Joint Meeting on Sanaa Summit *[INA]* 23
Five Army Divisions To Be Disbanded by 15 Oct *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Tariq 'Aziz Departs for UN Meeting in New York *[INA]* 23
GDR Construction Minister Concludes 3-Day Visit 23
Meets With Sa'dun Hammadi *[INA]* 23
Cooperation Minutes Signed *[INA]* 23
Junker Leaves Baghdad *[Voice of the Masses]* 24
RCC's Ibrahim Receives Malian Sports Minister *[INA]* 24
Paper Sees Israeli Media Campaign Against Iraq *[INA]* 24

ISRAEL

Arens Senses No 'Gap' During Talks With Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Arens Tells UN 'No Alternative' to Shamir Plan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Sep]* 25
Shamir Raps 'Arrogrant' Labor Moves in Address *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Peres Claims Meeting With Palestinians 'Close' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Weizman, Rabin Aim To Oust Party Chief Peres *[HA'ARETZ 27 Sep]* 26
Rabin-Weizman Pact Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Basyuni Calls for 'Clarifications,' 'Dialogue' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
U.S. Plan Seen Endangering Government Unity *[MA'ARIV 25 Sep]* 27
Paper Urges 'Arafat To Eschew UN Address *[AL-NAHAR 24 Sep]* 28
PLO Committees Preparing for Negotiations *[MA'ARIV 27 Sep]* 28
U.S. Informed of Proposed Soviet Barter Deal *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Sep]* 29
Opening of PRC Tourism Office Announced *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Central Bank Report Details Recommendations *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Sep]* 30
Jordanian Dinar Suffers Drop Against Shekel *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Sep]* 30
PLO Supporter To Head Arab Bar Association *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
IDF Steps Up Patrols Along Border With Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Shomron Says IDF Restraint Foils Uprising *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Human Rights Center Issues Data on Demolitions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

Incidents of Unrest Reported in Territories 31
Palestinian Casualties Reported *[HA'OLAM HAZE 27 Sep]* 32
Curfew in Tall al-Sultan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
6 Wounded Near Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Confiscated Magnetic Cards Returned to Laborers *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Sep]* 32
More Gazans Registering for Work Permits *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33

JORDAN

U.S. Support for Egyptian 10-Point Plan Urged *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Sep]* 34
Editorial Applauds Cooperation With Soviets *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 28 Sep]* 34

LEBANON

'Awn Says Initiative Deadlocked, Pullout Needed *[RFL]* 35
'Awn Criticizes Syrian Vice President's Remarks *[VOL]* 35
'Awn Expects Nothing Positive From Al-Ta'if Meet *[RFL]* 35
'Awn, Deputies Agree on Al-Ta'if Meeting *[VOL]* 35
Lakhdar Ibrahimi Praises Syrian Role in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Security Committee on Crossing, Passports *[VOL]* 36
Hizballah Urges Vengeance for Saudi Executions *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Expresses Optimism *[Voice of National Resistance]* 37
Junblatt on Arab Committee, Reforms, U.S. *[Amman AL-RA'Y 23 Sep]* 37
Chamber of Deputies Speaker Interviewed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 26 Sep]* 38
Israeli Forces Establish New Positions, Advance *[Beirut Radio]* 39
'Fierce' Artillery Clashes East of Sidon *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebel Rocket Attacks Suspend Kabul Flights *[AFP]* 41
Kabul Rocketed; 'Fierce' Khowst, Qandahar Fighting *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Bombing of Kabul Averted, Explosives Seized *[Kabul Radio]* 41
Rebels Seize Security Post on Jalalabad Highway *[Islamabad International]* 41
Army Said to Successfully Defend Khowst *[BAKHTAR]* 41
Army Counterattacks Said To Kill 85 Rebels *[BAKHTAR]* 42
TEHRAN TIMES Interviews Mujahidin Leader *[17 Sep]* 42

Bangladesh

Meeting Held With India on 'Border Crimes' *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Shanti Bahini Director Reportedly Surrenders *[Dhaka International]* 44
Eight-Party Alliance Formulates 'New Action Plan'
[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 19 Sep] 44
Communist Party Locked in 'Ideological Battle' *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 22 Sep]* 44

India

Defense Ministry Adviser on 'Prithvi' Test Firing *[Delhi TV]* 45
Petroleum Minister Meets With Soviet Oil Expert *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Guyana To Receive 100-Million-Rupee Credit *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Telecommunications Accord Signed With Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 45
World's First Super Minicomputers Inaugurated *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Television Transmitter Inaugurated in Ajial *[Delhi TV]* 46
Rajasthan Television Relay Center Commissioned *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Agricultural Sector Records 'Phenomenal' Growth *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Pakistani Chief of Staff's Statement Assailed *[PATRIOT 16 Sep]* 46

Iran

IAEA Representative Denies Bush CW Allegations *[IRNA]* 47
ABRAR on Accusations *[IRNA]* 47
Grand Ayatollah Araki Condemns Saudi Action *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Majlis Deputies Against Releasing Cooper *[IRNA]* 48
Daily Criticizes Yazdi's Remarks on British Spy *[IRNA]* 48
OPEC Urged To Set Aside Political Differences *[IRNA]* 48
Khamene'i Meets With Tehran Clergy, Basij Members *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Addresses Commanders on Defense Week *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Nurbakhsh Meets French Counterpart in U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Indian Official on Readiness To Help Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 51
Yazdi Urges Full Implementation of Resolution 598 *[IRNA]* 51
Iraqi POW's Permitted To Meet With Families *[IRNA]* 51
IRNA Notes 54 War-Damaged Cities, Towns Rebuilt 51
67 Iraqi Deportees Seek Asylum in Bakhtaran *[IRNA]* 52
New Governor of Khorasan Province Appointed *[Tehran TV]* 52

Pakistan

'Vigorous' Nuclear Energy Program Planned *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Bhutto Regrets Punjab Interference, Insults *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Bhutto Visits, Briefed at Army Headquarters *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Nusrat Bhutto Leaves for Italy, UN Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
President Lauds Army Role in Democracy Restoration *[Islamabad Radio]* 53

Sri Lanka

General Says Cease-Fire Holding Despite Incidents *[AFP]* 53
No Major Violation Of Cease-Fire Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 54
'Markedly Fewer' Violent Incidents Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Leaflets Urge 'Misguided Youth' To Surrender *[LANKAPUVATH]* 54

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Warns U.S. About 'Arafat Visa

JN2709180089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf has warned the U.S. Administration against the consequences of refusing to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa for the United States to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly. Some 86 U.S. senators and 44 members of the House of Representatives asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday to refuse Yasir 'Arafat a visa.

Salah Khalaf said that this will make us more determined to seek a visa. If the visa is rejected, the United States will be responsible for the consequences in the eyes of the Arab world and our friends in the international community.

Al-Hasan Interviewed on Confederation, Visa

JN2809082489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2020 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Antoine Abu-Samrah in Paris on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Samrah] Brother Hani al-Hasan, you are visiting Paris and holding contacts and talks with French officials, particularly at the French Foreign Ministry. What are the results of these talks and what do you expect from France?

[Al-Hasan] Following the historic visit President Yasir 'Arafat paid to Paris, it would be natural that no political moves should be made without consulting France, the Palestinian people's friend. As you may know, France is in the heart of the Palestinians for numerous reasons which we will not recall now, including its position in the 1982 war and its assistance in evacuating the Palestinian forces from Tripoli. There is also brother President Yasir 'Arafat's historic visit which came at the courageous invitation of President Mitterrand. Therefore, we have to meet now before President Mubarak's departure for the United States in order to reach agreement and understanding with the French diplomats and officials on what is going on. We in the PLO consider France a basic party to securing international guarantees for the success of the peace process in the region. Any international guarantees in which Europe does not participate alongside the Soviet Union and the United States will not be considered by us sure or effective guarantees. Therefore, we briefed the French officials on President Yasir 'Arafat's proposal in which the PLO approved holding preliminary talks between an authorized Palestinian delegation and an Israeli Government delegation in Cairo, provided that there are no preconditions for this preliminary dialogue and that it paves the way for an international conference to be attended by the Security Council's five permanent member states and the other concerned parties. I would like to clearly state that since the EEC's Madrid declaration, which was largely formulated by France and which recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and Israel's security, there remained no gap whatsoever between the Palestinian and French positions toward the political objectives. Discussion is revolving around the way to reach a solution. France adheres to the international conference and we, too, stick to it. I am glad to have sensed a French welcome of any step, especially a preliminary dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians, as long as this will eventually lead to holding an international conference.

[Abu-Samrah] It is obvious, brother Hani, that there is much coordination between you and Paris as well as between you and Cairo. However, in an interview published in today's issue of the newspaper LE FIGARO, the Egyptian president said a confederation between the occupied territories and Jordan is the best formula for stability in the region. Did you coordinate with the Egyptian president before he made this announcement, and do you agree with his proposal?

[Al-Hasan] There is no doubt that the subject of setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is an important part of the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions that were adopted at the latest PNC session in Algiers. Moreover, the Fifth Fatah Congress, which undoubtedly influences the PNC resolutions, has adopted the call for setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, provided that it comes as a result of the two peoples' own accord. We undoubtedly have no problem in presenting the confederation plan, and the question is when the Israeli withdrawal will take place so that such a confederation can be established. President Husni Mubarak is undoubtedly aware of the fact that this does not conflict with the Palestinian position as communicated to him by President Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit. We support a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and I can say that there is major coordination between us and President Husni Mubarak at this stage. There is no doubt that Mubarak's idea of holding a meeting in Cairo between an Israeli Government delegation and an authorized Palestinian delegation also enjoys the PLO's support.

[Abu-Samrah] It was announced today that Washington has granted an entry visa to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Does this mean cutting off access to granting an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat following the clamor raised over the issue in the United States? Does Yasir 'Arafat really want to go to New York?

[Al-Hasan] Regarding Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with the U.S. delegation in Tunis, we were surprised at the delay in issuing this visa because brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has for a long time been traveling to the United Nations and participating in its meetings. He also meets with Americans in Tunis from time to time. There is now a new measure in the United States stipulating that a visa should not be granted before

the elapse of 21 days. The excuse was that less than 21 days passed since the visa was requested. The United States is not entitled to prevent any PLO representative or official from entering the UN hall, which is the property of the entire world and not the United States. We saw how the world defied the United States and shifted the UN debate to Geneva when brother President Yasir 'Arafat was prevented from visiting.

[Abu-Samrah] Could you tell us if Yasir 'Arafat really wants to go to New York?

[Al-Hasan] As far as I know, brother President Yasir 'Arafat has not yet decided to go to New York because when we go to New York we must have something to say. President 'Arafat may think of going to the United Nations after President Mubarak's visit [to the United States], or once a U.S.-Palestinian meeting is held in Tunis that produces a new U.S. position and possible progress in the peace process. Thus far, there is no idea of going there and we have not applied for a visa.

[Abu-Samrah] Brother Hani, you said there is a period of 21 days before a visa is granted. The fact that the PLO chairman has not thus far applied for a visa means he will not leave for New York.

[Al-Hasan] Do not forget that this session continues and there is a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29 November. There are several UN occasions between September and December. Therefore, it is not necessary for brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to go in September; he may go in the following months.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you, brother Hani.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you.

Egypt Reportedly Proposes 12-Member Delegation

JN2709185289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Sep 89 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Cairo—Egyptian sources disclosed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv, conveyed to Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 24 September a list of the members of a Palestinian delegation—composed of residents from the occupied territories as well as deportees—to participate in negotiations with an Israeli delegation.

The list includes 10 notables from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and two prominent Palestinian deportees. The political sources added that the Palestinian delegation, according to the list prepared recently by Egypt in cooperation and coordination with the PLO, includes Ilyas Frayj, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Sa'id Kan'an, Faysal al-Husayni, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Jamil al-Tarifi, Hanna Sinyurah, Ghassan al-Shak'ah, As'ad al-Tantawi, and Mansur al-Shawwa. The two deported figures are Akram Haniyah and Muhammad Milhim.

The Egyptian sources said that Rabin communicated to Ambassador Basyuni his initial approval of all 10 members from the occupied territories, but he objected to the two deportees on the pretext that they are PLO members. He proposed that they be changed. [passage omitted]

Leader Comments on 10-Point Plan, Intifadah

NC2609161189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Ghassan al-Shak'ah, one of the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, has stated that the Palestinian position on President Mubarak's 10-point plan depends on the Israeli response to these points. This response, he said, may end the stalemate in the region and start real work toward reactivating the peace process.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Shak'ah said that the position of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories on the elections is the position of the PLO.

Al-Shak'ah said: We are not against elections as a democratic principle, but these elections must be held under certain conditions and must have a defined objective. These elections must be part of a comprehensive plan that will finally ensure the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO and President 'Arafat. This plan will also guarantee the security of all people in the region.

Al-Shak'ah explained that Egypt's 10 points outline the conditions under which the elections should be held. He added that the peace process comes at a later stage and must be tackled differently.

Al-Shak'ah said that he and other personalities from the occupied territories, including Jamil al-Tarifi and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, have met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, to discuss the situation of the citizens in the occupied territories and to brief Egyptian officials on the developments there.

Regarding the Palestinian intifidah [uprising], Al-Shak'ah said that the intifadah was launched to achieve definite and decisive results and that there can no be end to it until these results are achieved. He added: This is our message to the Israeli people and government, to the Arab world, and to the world at large. We have been patient for 22 years of occupation and injustice and have been waiting for peace. This, however, has not materialized. Therefore, the Palestinian people have taken the initiative and have launched the intifadah to arrive at a political solution to the issue and, consequently, to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Shak'ah said that the Palestinian people have made great strides in having Israeli goods removed from the shelves of Palestinian markets. He indicated that the intifadah has helped in the past 2 years to bolster some factories, especially textile and clothing factories.

UNESCO Executive To Recommend PLO Admission

AU2809095889 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, Sept 28 (AFP)—The Executive Council of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) is to recommend that Palestine be admitted, official sources said Wednesday [27 September].

The recommendation will be made at a meeting due to open at the organisation's headquarters here Thursday, UNESCO's press office said.

The two-week Executive Council meeting will be preparing the 25th session of the General Congress of member states, scheduled from October 17 to November 16.

Yasir 'Arafat Departs Sanaa 27 Sep

JN2709185689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, left Sanaa today after a 2-day visit to our country during which he joined in our people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Confers With PRC Foreign Minister

JN2709091889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Tunis last night. The PRC foreign minister conveyed a message to Abu 'Ammar from PRC President Yang Shangkun dealing with the PRC's position on the latest developments in the Middle East. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar briefed the PRC foreign minister on the latest developments and political moves to give momentum to the peace process in the region as well as the situation inside our occupied territories in light of the escalation of terrorism by the occupation authorities against our unarmed Palestinian people.

Official Views Talks With Israel, U.S. Position

JN2609155689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Sep 89 pp 1, 22

[By Raja Talab]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that Egyptian efforts to prepare for a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue have reached a deadlock because of Israel's intransigence and rejection.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, Al-Najjab explained that Israel refuses to agree to the PLO forming a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories. He said Israel also rejects negotiations that are free of any preconditions and refuses to consider the dialogue a means to prepare for an international conference. [passage omitted]

Al-Najjab indicated that 'Arafat has not applied for an entry visa for New York, but if the Palestinian political move requires so, he will officially apply for a visa for the United Nations, not the United States.

Al-Najjab stressed that through their concentration on the issue of a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Washington and Israel want to distract the attention of the PLO from its UN political action and to distract the attention of international parties and European states from their political role in supporting a settlement through an international conference on the pretext that a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is about to be launched.

He indicated that after this U.S. strategy was exposed to the PLO, the PLO has been working through its direct contacts with the European states to consolidate the European role on the basis of the Madrid Declaration, so that this [the international conference] will not be waived in favor of the 10 points, which were confirmed by Egypt itself as merely queries addressed to Israel, and not a political initiative. [passage omitted]

PLO Representative in Amman Interviewed

PM2609145089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 14

[Unattributed interview with Brigadier 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, "Palestinian ambassador in Amman" and PLO Executive Committee member; place, date not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] What is the PLO's position on the recent operations carried out across the Jordanian borders?

[Al-Yahya] Such operations will not affect Jordanian-Palestinian relations because the PLO has nothing to do with them, nor were they carried out by any sector or establishment belonging to it. There is no link between those operations and Palestinian political decisions.

[Interviewer] There are many views and much information about the PLO's position on the Jordanian parliamentary elections. What is the true position?

[Al-Yahya] That issue was discussed during President 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan and at all the meetings held during that visit. In my capacity as PLO ambassador to Amman, I conveyed our view of the elections to the Jordanian Government.

I emphasized then, and I emphasize again now, that the PLO maintains positive neutrality in that regard. That is, it considers the issue an internal Jordanian matter. We in the PLO look at the current important developments with great interest, especially concerning the elections. The PLO wants and hopes that the experiment will achieve the desired success with a view to helping put the Jordanian house in order so as to bring it into line with its pan-Arab aspirations.

[Interviewer] It seems that the return of the Palestinian National Fund to Jordan is linked to the efforts made to contain the economic crisis.

[Al-Yahya] That is untrue. The return of the fund has nothing to do with the economic crisis and its developments. The funds' chairman had submitted a request concerning that matter with a view to strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which have grown and developed recently, and the Jordanian Government agreed to it.

Al-Yahya Address at Economic Seminar Reported

JN2709110289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 89 pp 1, 3

[By Nirmeen Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday [26 September] called for a "struggle economy" for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly to grapple with the economic hardships brought in by the 21-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Economy and Planning Department, said that any discussion of the Palestinian economy in the occupied territories "is to various degrees connected to the Palestinian struggle and has to consider ways to benefit and enhance that struggle."

Speaking at the opening session of a three-day seminar on "urban development and the economics of self-dependence in the occupied territories in light of the Jordanian and Egyptian experience," Al-Yahya said that the PLO was working to create an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories and "Palestinian economy, therefore, should take this aim into account."

According to the PLO official, what is needed in the occupied territories is not the application of economic policies in their conventional meanings nor the transfer of economic experience in stable countries to be copied in detail, but a "struggle economy or a steadfastness economy based on effective self-dependence."

The seminar, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, aims at providing recommendations which would aid the economical, financial and urban steadfastness in the Israel-occupied territories. The gathering will discuss working papers presented by "economy technicians" from Jordan, Egypt and Palestine.

According to observers at the seminar reaching economic success and self-sufficiency in food production and farming is not an easy task for any nation, but when that nation has the added burden of dealing with political turbulance and an occupiers oppression, then the task becomes almost impossible.

"The situation inside is in a state of flux and agitated...it is not your usual normal and settled situation in which we can draw economic policies based on a definite time table," Al-Yahya said.

He maintained that the issue of the West Bank and Gaza was "thorny" because of considerations which transcend natural causes such as the farming areas in the occupied territories, depleting water sources, unavailability of natural resources, demographic problems in the Gaza Strip and unemployment.

The problem, according to Al-Yahya, comes in its larger part from the occupation and the "practices of the economy against our people and our land." The answer to the strife of Palestinians inside are economic policies motivated by political aspirations.

According to Al-Yahya, the search for solutions for the problems of the West Bank and Gaza should follow the theory that says that economy is concerned with the financial needs of the people. "In the occupied territories, the financial needs of the people are not the main issue," he said. "There ae psychological and political issues concerned with the national identity, liberation and the right to self-determination."

"Our main aim is to build a Palestinian foundation for the establishment of a Palestinian nation's economy in spite of the current situation," Al-Yahya said.

He highlighted the role of the Palestinian citizen as the main contributing factor in the Palestinian economy. "When I say Palestinian citizen I mean Palestinians living in the occupied territories and those living all over the world, because they are two parts of one human and political unity which complement and support each other in the common Palestinian struggle to achieve the one natonal goal, aspiration and future," Al-Yahya said.

Earlier, Minister of Agriculture and Urban Development Bassam al-Sakit, deputising for Crown Prince Hasan described the Israeli occupation as "organised and unfair powers controlling the Palestinian farmer with the aim of throwing him off his land and seizing control of it."

He hailed the Palestinians' courage and steadfastness in face of what he termed as unnatural hurdles placed in the way of their economic development.

"In spite of policies aimed at evicting the people from their land and what has resulted from these policies in the way of emigration from the occupied territories, the Palestinian Arab citizens have grown until they reached a population of over two million," Al-Sakit said.

This Palestinian presence has over the years "contributed to the failure of all efforts to deny the Palestinian identity," he said.

"When we say that we are planning for the success of urban development in the occupied territories then we are also saying that we are planning for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their land in preparation for their liberation and their right to live on their land in peace."

He described the issues of discussion in the seminar as "topics which take precedence in the minds of the Arab leaders." The minister said that "we can learn most from the information which comes out of the occupied territories where there is a direct confrontation between the will to live independently and occupation forces which refuse the will of a nation which aspires for freedom and peace."

Al-Sakit pointed out Jordan's role in the support of the Palestinian people and their steadfastness by using its Arab and national stand "to highlight the true picture of occupation."

Also speaking at the opening ceremony was Dr. Fu'ad Bsaysu, secretary general of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, who defined the role of seminar participants as "supporting the intifadah [uprising] in building the necessary framework to establish a Palestinian economy independent and free from Israeli efforts to bleed the Palestinian entity taking into account the main foundation for this effort being a comprehensive development plan for the urban areas in Palestine."

He said that the comprehensive plan would take into account the unity between Palestine, Jordan and Egypt and the realities of the intifadah which has crystallised around a home-based economy with an outlook to developing the society at large.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Dr. Salah 'Abd-al-Samad, representative of the Egyptian delegation participating in the seminar, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the Jordanian and Palestinian experiences in the fields of farming and urban developments.

OPEC Affairs

Ministerial Monitoring Committee Meets 27 Sep

Production Ceiling Raised

JN2709152689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, 27 Sep (INA)—The OPEC Ministerial Committee has decided to raise the OPEC oil production ceiling by 1 million barrels per day in the last quarter of this year.

An INA correspondent in Geneva has learned that the increase in the production ceiling will be distributed among the OPEC member states in accordance with the percentages represented by their previous quotas.

Ceiling Raised by 1 Million BPD

LD2709165989 Vienna OPECNA in English 1625 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, 27 Sept. 89 (OPECNA)—Through a majority decision, the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee, which resumed its meeting here this afternoon, has raised the organization's overall production ceiling from 19.5 million barrels per day [BPD] to 20.5 million barrels per day for the fourth quarter, effective 1 October.

It has also been decided that the increase of one million barrels per day will be distributed among OPEC's 13 member countries on a pro-rata basis.

The breakthrough came after two days of bilateral and multilateral consultations to consider different scenarios presented to the committee on a new production ceiling for the remainder of the year.

The committee comprises Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. Non-member committee countries Ecuador, Gabon, Qatar, Libya and the United Arab Emirates were also attending.

Representatives of non-OPEC oil producers Oman, Mexico, Norway, along with the state of Texas, sent representatives to Geneva to follow the OPEC talks.

Kuwait Considers Itself Not Bound

AU2709165689 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, Sept 27 (AFP)—Kuwait does not consider itself bound by a new production ceiling decided by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries here Wednesday, Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Khalifa al-Sabah said.

Algeria has dissociated itself from the decision, an Algerian delegate said.

Kuwait made "no commitment as to what level we will be producing, the production level of Kuwait will be decided in Kuwait," Mr. Ali told a press conference.

Kuwait's minimum requirement was a quota of 1.35 million b/d [barrels per day], Mr. Ali said, reiterating his country's position when it rejected its 1.093 million b/d quota in a 19.5 million b/d ceiling fixed in June.

The new ceiling fixed Wednesday was 20.5 million b/d for the final quarter of the year, OPEC Secretary General Subroto said. He said that changes in individual quota levels were not spelled out, but a Nigerian delegate said it was on a pro rata basis.

No figures were released for the new quotas of individual countries and there was no final communique, contrary to normal OPEC practice. "We gave no pledge, we are not legally bound," Mr. Ali said, "our attitude will be greatly influenced by the attitude of others."

Kuwait would retain the reservations it raised in June "until a solution is found that would be realistic and on which OPEC could work."

OPEC countries are to consult with their governments on a new permanent distribution of quotas based on an Iranian proposal that would give Kuwait qnd the United Arab Emirates a larger share of the total, with some other countries losing part of their share.

The ministers of the 13-member organisation will meet again once the consultations are finalised, possibly ahead of the next scheduled ministerial session in November.

Subroto on 'Spirit of Cooperation'

LD2709211589 Vienna OPECNA in English 1714 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, 27 Sept. 89 (OPECNA)—OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said this evening that if oil prices fell below 18 dollars per barrel, the monitoring committee would reconvene to 'take necessary steps to correct the situation' even before the scheduled November conference of OPEC oil ministers.

He was addressing a news conference at the end of the five-day-long meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee.

The secretary general emphasized that the outcome of the meeting may not appear to be 'concrete' but what was noteworthy was the spirit in which member countries agreed to 'tackle the most important problem of all—that of quota allocation'. They showed a 'spirit of co-operation and a willingness to attack the problem...this is the most important result of the meeting'.

Subroto stated: 'I am sure this spirit of co-operation will prevail so that we can, in November or even before, address the question of permament quotas and arrive at a concrete solution.'

The secretary general said the committee had also discussed a number of other important items. It had decided to continue discussions on a summit of OPEC heads of state and government next year to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the organization.

On long-term strategy, the committee had directed that OPEC national representatives should examine the question in detail and submit their findings to the committee which, after due consideration, would pass them on for approval to the full OPEC conference in November.

He said Iran had submitted a proposal regarding permanent quotas for member states and since it was a very important question, time was needed to consider it in all its aspects. Governments needed to be consulted. It was possible that the committee may meet before November to formulate its views.

Iraqi Oil Minister Cited

JN2709200689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, 27 Sep (INA)—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, oil minister and Iraq's representative on the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee, has described the committee's decision to raise the OPEC's production ceiling by 1 million barrels per day [BPD] as "positive."

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Geneva, the oil minister said that the decision reached today was "positive" in spite of the fact that it has not resolved the problems pertaining to the production quotas of some member states. He added that "the decision falls in line more sensibly with the speculations regarding the actual demand for OPEC oil during the fourth quarter of 1989."

The oil minister said that the opinions and ideas discussed on the production quota issue represent good signs that this issue will be discussed at the next ministerial meeting to be held in Vienna on 25 November.

Al-Jalabi said that most of the delegations which participated in the committee meetings gave positive opinions toward resolving the problem of distributing quotas which has been facing the OPEC.

On the other decisions adopted by the committee, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi said that the committee has decided to ask experts from the member states to study the two reports prepared by the General Secretariat on the OPEC's long term strategy for permanent production quotas for the OPEC member states. He added that these experts will submit their recommendations to the ministerial meeting to be held on 25 November.

The oil minister went on to say that the ministerial committee held lengthy discussions on the topics listed on its agenda, especially those concerning the status of the oil market and the speculation on the actual demand for OPEC oil during the rest of this year.

This committee was formed during the 84th ministerial conference held in Vienna during the period 21-28 November when the OPEC Ministerial Council expressed grave concern over the continued deterioration of oil prices at the time.

The eight ministers who took part in this meeting were joined by the five remaining ministers in this meeting which was concluded today. The five ministers attended this meeting as observers. Thus, all of the thirteen OPEC member states were represented at the meeting.

This is the committee's third meeting since it was formed. The first meeting was held in Vienna in April, while the second one was held in Vienna in June.

Algeria Dissatisfied

LD2809103389 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Geneva, 28 Sep (APS)—The OPEC session that ended last night resulted only in a mediocre formula to raise the production ceiling from 19.5 million to 20.5 million barrels per day. This was after 5 days of talks. The session did not result in any signed laws or final communiques. Algeria stated that it does not support this resolution, which increases production quotas without dealing with the principal problem—that is, specifying ways to stabilize prices at around $18 a barrel.

It is noteworthy that throughout the session the Algerian delegation defended the principle of supporting prices—a principle which was collectively adopted—especially through the distribution of quotas acceptable to everyone and through strict adherence by everyone to these specified quotas.

However, in the absence of laws, there is no commitment other than to increase total production by 1 million barrels, a result described by a member of the Algerian delegation as an "artificial formula."

As far as national quotas are concerned, the difference between the new and existing ceilings is based on the current system, that is, in proportion to the quotas of every country. Therefore the Algerian quota, estimated at 733,000 barrels per day, has been increased to 760,000 barrrels per day, and the Saudi Arabian quota, the largest producer, now exceeds 5 million barrels to reach 5.150 million barrels exactly.

Egypt

Mubarak WASHINGTON POST Interview Cited

NC2509165589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1635 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Washington, 24 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that when he goes to the White House and when he meets with Israeli officials and U.S. President George Bush, he will take with him an authorization by the PLO to exert crucial efforts to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the elections and peace in the occupied Arab territories.

President Mubarak made this statement in an interview he gave in Cairo to the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, before his trip to Washington next week. President Mubarak stressed that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has the support of his organization in accepting Mubarak's 10 points for holding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper asked the president whether he will inform President Bush and the Israeli leaders of 'Arafat's commitment. Mubarak replied: "I could say so."

In his interview with THE WASHINGTON POST, which was published today, President Mubarak added: "Let the Israelis, as a state or as a government, say they accept these points in principle, although there may be some points with which they disagree. Let us hold a dialogue to discuss them, and let everyone sit down, put their cards on the table, and reach an understanding with each other on preparing for the elections." The president added: "It is not a negotiating table, but a table for dialogue, which is quite a different matter."

Asked about claims that there have been excesses on the part of the Egyptian Interior Ministry in its treatment of members of the Islamic groups and the leftist opposition, the president said such reports are either fabricated or exaggerated. He emphasized that he is absolutely against any maltreatment wherever it occurs.

President Mubarak then answered a question on Egypt's unwillingness to conclude an agreement with the IMF that calls for the introduction of stringent austerity measures. He said: We cannot do that. We know our people, and there is a limit to what we can do. I am extremely interested in undertaking reforms.

President Mubarak said that he will take with him to Washington the names of Palestinians acceptable to 'Arafat.

The president responded to a question on Israeli criticism of his refusal to hold any contacts with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by saying: I have been in touch with him several times by message. Had there been a positive answer, it would have encouraged me to hold more talks with him.

Mubarak noted that he had sent a message to Shamir in the past 2 or 3 months urging him to begin peace talks and asking him what should be done in this respect. The president pointed out that he is aware of the reactions in Israel to his remarks calling on the Isreli voters to urge Shamir to accept the new peace plan.

President Mubarak noted that he had met several Israeli officials, including Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who belongs to the Shamir-led Likud, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres.

Commenting on the interview with President Mubarak, THE WASHINGTON POST reports that President Mubarak's 10-point plan concerning elections, together with Shamir's plan, which should be redefined, has drawn wide-scale attention because it represents the only peace initiative in the Middle East which is being given active consideration by the various parties concerned. The paper adds that President Mubarak's 10-point plan would guarantee free elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for Palestinian figures who would then negotiate Palestinian self-determination under "a land for peace" formula.

The paper notes that, as regards the PLO, President Mubarak believes that the PLO's hardliners want guarantees that the PLO would not be excluded from the peace process, and that any dialogue or negotiations should lead to self-determination for the Palestinians. The paper adds that President Mubarak seeks to convince the Likud's hardline leaders to start a dialogue with the Palestinians.

THE WASHINGTON POST says that President Mubarak believes that the United States should not deny 'Arafat an entry visa to New York to attend the UN General Assembly debates on the Palestinian issue. President Mubarak, the paper adds, also believes that if 'Arafat manages to meet with U.S. officials during his visit to New York this would greatly contribute toward the peace process.

The paper points out that the ruling Israeli coalition government is currently suffering from deep divisions over President Mubarak's 10-point plan.

THE WASHINGTON POST concludes its comment by saying that Mubarak's 10 points are bound to resolve the political complications facing the Palestinians and Israelis in determining whether to hold trial talks [mubahathat tajribyah] concerning elections in the occupied territories and what can be achieved from these elections.

President Mubarak on Official Visit to France

For reportage on President Mubarak's official visit to France, including talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 28 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on 10-Point Plan

NC2709152589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Egyptian 10-point plan is not an alternative to the Israeli election plan but a set of questions that requires a response. He added that Egypt is still awaiting the Israeli Government's response.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the current dialogue within the Israeli Government will result in choosing the option of negotiation and peace.

In an interview to be published in the 29 September issue of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the 10-point plan has received wide-scale international support, especially from the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union.

However, 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that the 10-point plan will not be discussed during President Mubarak's upcoming meeting with U.S. President Bush in New York, adding that this would be premature.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Palestinian issue and the debt problem are at the top of the agenda for President Mubarak's trip to Europe and the United States. He expressed the hope that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will become deeper and more embracing.

Chief of Staff on Joint Exercises, French Visit

NC2609151589 Cairo MENA in English
1250 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept 26 (MENA)—Chief of Staff Lt General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf has affirmed Egypt's readiness to conduct joint military exercises with any Arab country pointing out that the Egyptian Armed Forces were conducting joint military drills with the Jordanian forces.

In statements today Lt General Abu-Shinaf said Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman had reached an agreement for similar joint exercises. He also said that during his recent visit to France he has talks with French officials on joint cooperation with emphasis on joint manoeuvres and military industrialisation.

Lt. General Abu-Shinaf also said that an agreement was reached with the French side for the setting up of a technical base to service French made arms in Egypt and the region. A team of French experts will be despatched to Egypt to teach the French language in Egyptian military colleges and academies, Lt. General Abu-Shinaf said.

He added that he addressed an invitation to his French counterpart to visit Egypt.

Haykal Comments on Rabin Visit to Cairo

JN2709115089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
24 Sep 89 pp 1, 6

[Article by Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal: "Remarks on Rabin's Visit to Cairo and What Followed It"]

[Text] This article consists of mere remarks on Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Cairo. So, I think it is only fair to warn the reader right from the start that he should view the contents of this article with caution for two reasons:

Firstly, this article stems from a logic which is still based on the belief that Israel cannot make peace regardless of its fighting capability. Fighting is a question of arms, but peace is a question of history. Fighting battles is momentary, but history is eternal.

Secondly, this article represents a school of thought which has its own opinion on peace with Israel, not only with regard to the possibility of this peace, but also with regard to its worthiness. I must also add that the impossibility of peace does not necessarily mean the resumption or continuation of fighting in a world which has proven that no matter how powerful, arms are powerless and ineffective.

If I am told these are antiquated ideas, my reply would be: Maybe.

And, if I am told this is the age of major settlements, which we cannot merely ignore, I might have to warn my interlocutors that this talk is not accurate. We might have to revise our position and remember that the major settlements we are witnessing in the world around us today have an objective, realistic, and therefore historic basis. That alone paved the way for these settlements and made them possible and essential.

The talk that we are in the age of settlements is correct. But it needs further elaboration. We say, for instance, that we are in the age of nuclear power and outer space. This is correct, because every age is defined by the highest level of progress it attained. But it would be wrong if all the people of this age imagined that they have controled all the forces of nature, walked on the moon, and crowded the stars in their orbit. The truth is, some people of this age have attained this level after they have acquired the basis for it. As for the rest, who are the overwhelming majority, they have not yet attained that level, because they do not have the basis for it. Everyone has the right to dream and to try to catch up with new ages. However, without the objective, realistic, and therefore historic basis, all he will be doing is slipping into a vacuum rather than rising into outer space.

This criterion also applies to the talk about the age of settlements. The famous expression "true...but!" applies here.

I might also add: Yes, we will enter the age of major settlements exactly as we have entered the age of nuclear

power and outer space. The criterion is not a mere drawing of parallels, but a true expression of facts and the balances of power.

I will now move to the remarks on Rabin's visit to Cairo.

First, it is obvious that a major part of the current moves in the theater of events in the Middle East are firmly linked to a U.S. political concept of the region, which was drawn in preparation for George Bush's presidency and was issued late last year—in fact a few weeks before his election—in a report entitled: "Building for Peace." The chairman of the committee which compiled this report was Lawrence Eagleburger, who is now under secretary of state. The committee members included Dennis Ross, who is now chief of the Policy Planning Staff in the State Department.

He who reads this report, which is among the papers of the "Presidential Studies Group," will have the feeling, which becomes stronger with every page, that its political background is based on several assumptions, which are often correct, indicating that:

1. The vital interests of the United States no longer face a true danger in the region. The Soviet friction that would hamper these interests and the challenge by any of the regional forces that would threaten them no longer exist.

2. In such case, it is time that the United States reformulated and confirmed its demands in the region, including the redrawing of its map, if necessary.

3. In view of the fact that the entire region is experiencing strong and dangerous instability through which positions of influence have moved from the monopoly of leaders, governments, and armies to rivalry among sects, militias, streets, and sometimes between mosques and churches, the U.S. policy in the region is required to move slowly so that it will not hit invisible mines that are submerged in the quagmires of mud and blood that cover several spots in the region. The experience of such dangers is recent, and the example was what happened in the massacre of the U.S. Marines in Beirut in October 1983 in which the U.S. fleet lost 325 soldiers and officers in one explosion. This was the biggest military loss the U.S. forces were exposed to since the end of the Vietnam war. Or like what happened in the explosion that occurred at the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut in April of 1983. In this explosion, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency lost three-quarters of its senior staff concerned with the region, who were having a meeting at the embassy building, and who died under its rubble.

The U.S. policy does not now want to touch on all of this or on some of it, especially as there is no hurry. Therefore, the new assessment was to move step by step—coolly and calmly—to avoid the quagmires of mud and blood, and to reach the stage of redrawing maps, if necessary.

Since the association and interaction of developments are not necessarily subject to the views and recommendations of planners, U.S. policymakers were surprised by a sudden factor that was not included in the original calculations, namely the intifadah [uprising], which erupted in the occupied territories, and which produced changes that cannot be ignored in the balances in the region—balances that are precarious by nature and circumstance. Matters then have become somewhat confused.

Second, it seems that U.S. policymakers expected that through the "determination" it is known for, Israel would be able to control the fire and to extinguish the flames within weeks or months. This was not achieved. This failure had its repercussions that affected Israel itself. In all cases, the planners of the new U.S. policy had more faith in their cool and quiet plan, that is, cautiously avoiding the quagmires of mud and blood. Perhaps, they found in what happened in the occupied territories additional proof of their sound assessment. Despite this, they could not leave developments to chance, particularly regarding the effects of the intifadah on Israel. These effects have become stronger with the continuation of the intifadah to a point where it sparked off latent internal contradictions, some of which reached the point of questioning the idea of the very existence of Israel, the philosophy of this idea, and the possibilities of Israel's continued existence in future years and eras.

There emerged an urgent necessity to do something. U.S. policy wanted to do "this something;" however, it wanted others, not itself, to do it because large plans cannot be changed overnight. They cannot jump from the rails they are on to other rails quickly and lightly.

Stemming from the U.S. desire for action of others and not itself, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposed his initiative to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, his action was as rigid and stubborn as his personality. Perhaps events surprised him since he came out with a forced response, as the saying goes. His enemies found this an opportunity to embarrass him, in particular his archenemy Shim'on Peres, his predecessor as Prime Minister in the previous government and his current deputy after the last election in Israel.

Third, it seems there are deep divisions within Israel. These divisions are formed into blocs and men. On the level of blocs, there is the alliance which Shamir depends on. It consists, in general, of the pro-Likud bloc parties including the Sephardim (eastern Jews), foremost of which are the groups of settlers in the occupied territories.

Facing this bloc is another alliance consisting, again in general terms, of pro-Labor Party groupings added to which are the rest of the Ashkenazi (western Jews)—an element whose influence is diminishing daily, nearly tearing away the last remnant of European clothing Israel brags about. Then there are groups of West European and American Jews. Among those are some who believe

that Israel has become a burden on their conscience and pocket and that the time has come for it to shoulder its political burdens alone.

On the level of divisions between men, the struggle over the peak has been concentrated on three men; stubborn Shamir, facing him his cunning enemy Peres, and between the two stands Yitzhaq Rabin, minister of defense, belonging to the Labor Party and one-time head of the party. In this capacity, he was prime minister then but was forced to resign after a financial scandal which affected his reputation and forced him to submit to a man whose qaulifications he does not believe in, namely Peres.

U.S. policy has always been inclined toward the bloc led—or not—by Shim'on Peres. Its wish is to make him prime minister hoping to get things done through others, instead of Shamir who is inspired by the Talmud in everything he does.

The United States has tried in every way to keep Peres prime minister; however, it did not succeed. It tried—and still does—to break the ruling coalition in Israel before elections and after them to date. Circumstances did not help either because Shamir depended on the instinct of survival in Israel and fortified his trenches. To this point in time, he has succeeded for one major reason—which is that the United States must use great care in dealing with whoever is in power in Israel because Israel is the only strategic ally in the region, and in addition, its influence on U.S. political life is great and continuing.

Perhaps, one of the most important factors which has helped Shamir succeed in his fight is that he exploited the complexes plaguing the Peres-Rabin relationship. Thus, he won Rabin over to his side. The end result is that Shamir has managed to besiege the Labor Party and to portray Peres as a lackluster and evasive figure in Israeli politics. The positions adopted by Peres in his conflict with Shamir drew my attention. I asked a friend who knows Peres very well about this conflict. The following is a verbatim version of the answer that I received: "Shim'on's problem is that he cannot abandon his ministerial post no matter what happens to him. The power of any politician lies in his ability to give up his post, enter the spacious public arena, and work to mobilize the people behind his leadership. Shim'on is not a politician of this type."

Then, my interlocutor added: Listen, the Israeli society is a society of immigrants who flooded Israel from all parts of the world. People do not know each other. They do not even know themselves. The value of any Israeli for other people and for himself lies in the post that he occupies. The post is the only thing that gives him power and keeps him in the minds and memories of others. If he loses this post, he loses everything. Listen to me well. Shim'on will never leave the cabinet no matter how much Shamir embarrasses or humiliates him. In a society of immigrants, Peres and the like are nobodies if they are not prime ministers, vice prime ministers, or even mere cabinet ministers.

I think that this is an acceptable explanation.

Fourth, during the past few months and with the aggravation of the crisis in Israel caused by the intifadah and the ensuing divisions in blocs and among political figures in Israel, and with the U.S. desire to see "something happen," the situation has become fraught with unforseen eventualities, including those pertaining to the possible outbreak of major sedition in Israel expected to be ignited by the settler groups at the instigation of "crazy people" like Sharon and others.

The United States has continued to pursue its policy. It still wanted to see "something happen." However, it wanted others to do this something: It did not want to do it by itself. The United States has not even wanted to follow through the direct dialogue it launched with the PLO to its logical results. Several meetings have been held between its ambassador in Tunis and PLO representatives. The dialogue has consisted mostly of questions addressed by the U.S. ambassador. Answers for these questions were requested. Weeks of waiting and wasted months separated the dialogue sessions held. All of these questions have been a test in theories and assumptions. They neither help make any progress nor cause any delays. (As a matter of fact, they might cause delays in that they waste time).

Then, the United States decided that the man of the hour was Yitzhaq Rabin and that it was time to see him play a major role in ending the stalemate!

For many years, Yitzhaq Rabin has been the United States' man in Israel. He is more level-headed than Shamir and firmer than Peres. (Rabin's favored position in Washington might be attributed to the fact that he was the chief of staff of the Israeli army in critical years in the sixties and that he spent the latter part of the sixties and part of the seventies as Israel's ambassador in Washington. There, he came to know all the individuals and institutions before he returned to his country as prime minister.)

I have met numerous U.S. policymakers and diplomats. They all heap praise on Rabin, as he is viewed as the savior in deteriorating situations. His only problem lies in this internal depression which has plagued him since he was forced to abandon the premiership. However, this shortcoming is viewed as a minor problem if considered in conjunction with his capabilities and with what he can do right now.

My interlocutor went on to say: Rabin must not be left for Shamir to exploit in his relationship with Peres. Rabin must play an independent role; and this is the time for that role.

Fifth, perhaps Egyptian politicians know more than others about the situation in Israel and the prominence of Rabin's role. Thus came about the 10 points proposed

by the Egyptian Government in the form of queries over Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. This was followed by an invitation to Rabin to visit Cairo so that Cairo can listen to him and he can listen to Cairo.

Inviting Rabin, whether directly or indirectly, needed guts and nerve. The man, after all, is the one who is confronting the Palestinian people's intifadah with biting fire and iron oppression.

Perhaps he felt the burden borne by Egyptian nerves ahead of time. The first thing he said when he was received in Cairo was that he is accused before the Arabs of being harsh on the intifadah. He also said that he is accused before many Israelis of being too lenient. He used the greatest amount of self-control to use the least possible force. Had he wanted extreme measures of violence he would have quelled it in days or weeks, but he did not want that. Had anyone else been in his position (someone you and I know, and perhaps he means Sharon), blood would have flowed in rivers and bodies stacked in piles. That would have been the end of it. However, he handled the intifadah with a degree of force required by politics, and not with the politics of force which others call for.

Rabin listened and spoke in Cairo. He went back to Israel and the underlying idea of what he concluded was the following: That Shamir's plan proposes holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He approves of this idea and believes that it is his suggestion in the first place. However, after presenting its 10 points, Egypt now wants to convene an Israeli-Palestinian meeting which will, in fact, be the first stop on the journey of negotiations between the two basic sides in the struggle.

Rabin is ready to accept the concept of this meeting on condition that it will be restricted to discussing the election process.

In this way, there will be the elections as Shamir wants them and there will be the meeting between the two sides as the 10 Egyptian points stipulate.

After that, Rabin's moderate thinking moves to the issue of Palestinian representation in the proposed joint meeting.

Shamir rejects these meetings in the first place.

After hearing Egypt's request for a meeting, Rabin then listens to Egypt's opinion on the necessity of the participation of the Palestinians from outside the occupied territories (the PLO in one form or another). He does not mind a Palestinian delegation composed of ten members, two of which are from outside the occupied territories. Egypt then suggests all the names on condition that Israel has the right to object to any of them.

This is the moderate solution in his opinion!

After that, Rabin does not conceal from all those he talked to in Cairo—as he did in Washington—that he insists on the principles on which, in his opinion—this is where he agrees with Shamir and perhaps all the others—there cannot be a compromise solution. Most important of these are:

— Rejecting the proposal of land for peace which appears in the Egyptian 10 points.
—Rejecting the proposal of stopping settlement even if only for the period of negotiations which is another proposal appearing in the Egyptian 10 points.
—Rejecting the proposal of Israeli troop withdrawal to a distance of 1 km away from the voting centers which is another one of the Egyptian 10 points.
—Rejecting the proposal of the presence of any kind of international supervision of the election process—again a proposal referred to by the Egyptian 10 points.
—All this in addition to the total rejection of any reference—mere reference—to the PLO, or Palestinian right to self-determination, or the state of Palestine, whether now or in the future.

Thus, all the current moves are focused on a list of 10 persons composing the proposed Palestinian delegation. Perhaps the whole issue is centered on discussing two Palestinians from outside the occupied territory. And this is the whole issue at the present time and in the near future.

The entire mission of the delegation is to hold negotiations on the procedures of elections for months and years—within and outside the framework of the issue—as happened in an international meeting held recently in Austria between Palestinians and Israelis. The first question addressed by one of the members of the Israeli delegation to the other delegation was the following: How will Israel guarantee that the number of the Palestinians in the future will not exceed the present limit?

Sixth, despite all this, Egyptian policy will continue honestly and firmly. It will continue to adhere to its hopes and objectives. It wants to expose to the entire world that Israel does not seek peace. And this is a legitimate objective, although the real problem is that the whole world is not now free to concentrate on the Middle East issue as it is preoccupied with the problem of Eastern Europe.

And the USSR is not involved in the competition as it has enough issues to take care of at present. Western Europe, which considers the Middle East close in proximity, does not have enough influence. This is in addition to the fact that its interests in the region are financial, not political, and most of these interests are related to the arms trade, not settling disputes.

Therefore, the entire world is satisfied with "encouraging" the Egyptian attempts to evade the jolt of conscience created by the intifadah. Perhaps the entire world is waiting for the convening of a meeting—any meeting—between the Israelis and Palestinians to finally turn its attention away from the central conflict in the

Middle East and to take a breath and convince itself and others that the complex problem has been resolved and that mere details remain.

Ultimately, Egypt will remain alone. And this is an impermissible thing that must be taken into consideration. My fears, which are also the fears of others, are that the Egyptian policy—in its apparent insistence on embarking on negotiations—is taking its experiment with Israel as an example, although there is no comparison with the Palestinian case. In the negotiations between Egypt and Israel, Israel did not have any historical claim in any part of the Egyptian territory. Israel also had and still has a desire for disengagement with Egypt, because Egypt with its position, weight, and manpower—55 million now and 77 million before the end of this century—is a party that Israel does not want to find itself in an unlimited conflict with.

What attracts one's attention is that with the beginning of this intensive cycle of activities in the Middle East, the prominent rabbis in Israel issued—for the first time—an edict whose purport is that any relinquishment of the "land of Israel" is an encroachment on the Jewish religion and an infidelity to the Jewish holy books in letter and spirit. This edict should be read carefully in Cairo and elsewhere. This edict might be an expression of a public opinion that is becoming firmer. Shamir depends on this situation and is waiting for an opportunity to exploit it in order to hold general elections in accordance with which his bloc will obtain the majority without being accused of breaking the 6-year-old national coalition. This is the moment that Peres fears most. He knows that his party is not ready for the elections. And the surprise will be when Rabin will be called on to lead the party, since he is seen by many as the man of the hour.

Seventh, and I hope I would not be exaggerating if I said that I am not enthusiastic about an Israeli-Palestinian meeting, if it ever takes place, in Cairo and under Egyptian auspices, even if the PLO accepts it and its chairman agrees to such a meeting.

I have many reasons for this:

1. It means that Egypt will find itself playing the role of mediator. Such a role is absolutely not a role it should play. Egypt is a principal party in the struggle that is raging in the occupied territories and is not and cannot be a mediator.

2. The mediator's role will be to convince or to apply pressure on the parties to offer reciprocal concessions. Egypt has no means with which it can apply pressure on Israel. Therefore, out of its wish to avoid failure it will find itself compelled to apply pressure only on the Palestinian side. This is an exhausting stand for all.

One notices that the Swedish Government, which has played a prominent role in paving the way for this stage of intensive activities on the Palestinian cause, tries to avoid holding such a meeting on its territory.

When all the pressure was applied on the Palestinians, the Swedish Government volunteered to host the contacts between the two sides. But when the time came to apply pressure on Israel to have it offer concessions, the Swedish Government refrained and left the task to others.

Someone may ask me the following: If there is a need to hold an Israeli-Palestinian meeting to discuss the question of holding the elections, and if Sweden abstains and Egypt does not have to volunteer, then where could such a meeting be held?

I will reply to this question with another question: If such a meeting is really necessary, then why not hold it in the United Nations? Is it not the most suitable and most appropriate venue?

I say this knowing that while in Cairo, Rabin had told some of those whom he met: Please, we do not want you, nor anyone else to mention the United Nations, or even speak about it. This is strange talk and suspect too.

3.There is also another factor which is worth taking into consideration: this is that Egypt, which has rejoined the Arab fold, must exercise caution with respect to the image it wants to portray about itself to Arab public opinion, no matter how ineffective this Arab public opinion is at the present stage.

I can safely claim that Arab public opinion is not yet reassured about the relationship that exists between Egypt and Israel. Arab public opinion reluctantly accepts this relationship as a fait accompli because it is eager for Egypt to resume its natural place in the heart of the Arab homeland.

Arab public opinion was not pleased at the visit to Israel by an Egyptian envoy in the wake of the Casablanca summit at which Egypt returned to its Arab nation.

Neither was Arab public opinion pleased at seeing Rabin in Cairo, coming from the fields of violence and coercion in the occupied territory and visiting the Egyptian Monument to the Unknown Soldier to lay down a wreath.

And I do not believe that Arab public opinion was enthusiastic for Egypt's mediation between the Palestinians and Israelis when it is supposed to be a neutral party.

And last, I do not believe that Arab public opinion will feel any satisfaction if it finds that Egypt—God forbid—is applying pressure on the Palestinians to make more concessions in their eagerness to make the coming negotiations a success, assuming that it has started.

I am not concerned if some Arab regimes are following up what Egypt is doing with silence and semi-satisfaction. I believe that some of these regimes are waiting with good intentions and others with concern. Furthermore, I do not rule out that some Arab regimes are waiting and hoping that Egypt will consume all or part of its historical role in these attempts.

Ultimately, I fear that most of what we see on the American and Israeli spheres are mere ploys to bypass the intifadah, the PLO, and the Palestinian people. It is known that the most important factor in the issue on the Egyptian sphere—after the pan-Arab commitment—is that Palestine is considered Egypt's only land crossing point to Arab Asia, even in an age of planes and rockets.

We should remember that Egypt, which is an African country in terms of geography, is in fact an Asian country in terms of history, including language and religion. This means that Palestine is at the heart of Egyptian security yesterday, today, and tomorrow. And this issue must not be absent from anybody's attention.

What is taking place now on the American level are the cool and quiet political activities that will, ultimately, result in drawing up a new map for the region. Anyone can look at the map of the Arab world and its adjacent areas, beginning with Afghanistan and ending with the north African coasts on the Mediterranean and think; he will remember that the age of major settlements has objective, real, and historical conditions that are very different from the age when drawing up new maps was based on the unilateral will of one strong party which believed there was an opportunity here and that the region was a soft mixture to be easily shaped in accordance with its demands and whims.

Columnist Hails Saudi Executions, Urges Caution

JN2809110289 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Haywan]

[Text] So, the crime occurred. The gang of aggression, falsehood, and sin confessed and just punishment was meted out on those who wanted to harm the sacred house of God. They were a group of Shiites from Kuwait who took orders from Iran and began to explode bombs in the sacred land among the guests of God. They wanted to disturb the pilgrims and show that Saudi Arabia cannot protect that house of God. Thus, that group denied that that house has a God who protects it, and who has been protecting it from time immemorial.

The Gulf press published the gang's confessions under the headline "Marchers Along the Imam's Path"—meaning Imam Khomeyni. They said in their confessions that they used to meet and plan with Iran and that they received the explosives from the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. They also said they received money in advance for the operation. What a loss, to receive money to explode mines in the holy land and during the hajj season. This was an advance for disbelieving in all Muslim sacred things.

They also said they used the facilities of free movement among the Gulf Cooperation Council to smuggle the explosives into Al-Madinah and Mecca. As the confessions continue and the features of the crime become clearer, we can learn some basic lessons from it.

Iran's attempts to stir sedition in the holy mosque began a long time ago and never ceased, and I witnessed part of these attempts in 1982. They continued every year, and, each time, Saudi Arabia was tolerant. On every occasion, the crimes were exposed and Saudi Arabia pardoned. It did not publish the details of the conspiracy against it and did not punish the criminals but let them escape punishment because it believes in the principle of pardon whenever possible. It seems, however, that things have gone too far and Saudi Arabia has had to say something and finally inflict punishment. On the issue of security, it is not advisable to remain silent. Crimes must be exposed and those who commit them must be punished immediately because punishment constitutes deterrence.

The discovery of this crime may also help in exposing similar crimes—the explosions in Kuwait, the plane hijacking, and others. Exposing Iran's crimes, however, also requires Saudi Arabia to expose Iran's partners. They are known and their actions need no proof, only a statement from Saudi Arabia to expose Syria's and Libya's attempts against the holy mosque and against Saudi Arabia.

An important lesson for the security of Egypt: The criminals abused the good relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council member states to smuggle the explosives into Saudi Arabia. This means that some friends can do the same to us. Iran's embassy abused its presence in Kuwait and gave explosives to the criminals. Some embassies, which we know very well, can do the same in Egypt. We should not trust anybody unless he provides signs enough to prove that we can trust him. Luckily for Egypt, until now Iran, Syria, and Libya do not have embassies in Cairo.

Another lesson for the security authorities in Egypt: If they want to protect Egypt, they must observe the trends connected with Iran, Syria, and Libya in Egypt because they are prepared for a similar type of crime.

Investment Companies Banned From Speculating

NC2709102989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports that the cabinet has banned investment companies from speculating in gold, precious metals, and foreign currencies since such operations require special expertise that may not be available to these companies and also involve a considerable degree of risk. In addition, the cabinet banned these companies from contributing to the capital of banks or insurance companies and from buying shares issued by such enterprises.

AL-AHRAM notes that the cabinet held a meeting which lasted until the early hours of yesterday. At this session,

chaired by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, Dr Jalal Abu-al-Dahab, minister of supply and internal trade, said that the country has sufficient supplies of wheat, flour, sugar, tea, and edible oil.

Paper Reports on Foreign Currency 'Crisis'

JN2609154389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
25 Sep 89 pp 1, 2

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The country's foreign currency crisis is being exacerbated. Informed economic sources have put the foreign currency deficit over the past 3 months at about $1 billion compared to the figures mentioned in the [5-year] plan. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi will hold a meeting this afternoon to discuss economic measures for dealing with the crisis, while the government continues its diplomatic contacts with the big powers in a bid to obtain food assistance in the upcoming period.

AL-WAFD learned that the prime minister's meetings aim to discuss the optimal way of using foreign currency, confront the troubles in importing essential commodities and raw material, and implement some of the projects of the 5-year plan in light of the drop in the amount of foreign currency. Informed economic sources have attributed the current sharp monetary crisis to the fact that over the past few days, Egypt repaid the interest on its debts owed to a foreign country and some international banks. The amount of interest is estimated at $500 million. The sources expected the foreign currency deficit to increase to over $3 million during May due to the decline in exports of the main national commodities, mainly cotton, and the continued suspension of loans to Egypt by the big powers. AL-WAFD has learned that the government will postpone the implementation of some projects of the plan. It will define priorities concerning financing the projects over the next few months according to the emergency plan currently being considered. The cabinet meeting at 1830 today is expected to discuss the adoption of some important economic decisions to implement the foreign currency emergency plan.

FRG To Donate DM663 Million in Aid, Credits

JN2609162089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
25 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Egypt and the FRG yesterday signed an agreement for financial and technical cooperation for the present year. In accordance with this agreement, the FRG will present DM663 million in the form of loans, grants, and credits to finance some projects in Egypt.

During the expanded meetings held between the Egyptian and FRG sides, differences regarding FRG side's demand for the trade debt—which, after closer study appeared to be DM5 million, not DM33 million—have been settled. The amount was paid to the FRG side from the Central Bank.

Libya

Reopener on Al-Qadhdhafi 26 Sep Speech

LD2709225489 Tripoli JANA in English
1718 GMT 27 Sep 89

[The following item reopens and completes the Al-Qadhdhafi speech published in the 27 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 16-19]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader asserted "we must not end and nothing forces us to end without something in return. We must not wait for someone to unify you and resurrect you we cannot but depend on ourself and Allah will be with us and the hand of Allah is with the group ... You are Sallah al-Din, Aqabah ibn Nafie, you are 'Ali Jinah, Khalid ibn al-Waleed, Tariq ibn Ziyad, 'Umar al-Mukhtar and 'Umar ibn al-Khattab... Islam did not call at all for individualism, for Islam is jamahiri, prayer is jamahiriyah the running around Qa'abah is jamahiri, the ritual of pilgrimage are jamahiri rituals and jihad in Islam is a sacred duty which means that Islam has no government in it no regular or irregular army in it, a people, a ruler and a ruled... We imitated peoples when we [word indistinct] a government a king of a president of a republic, a parliament and a party...

We want to establish a party of Allah and bear the responsibility the prophet left and the Khulafaa left and the conquerer after him who fought the crusade and the zionism and conquer Andalusia who spread Islam beyond Sind and India until they reached Bengal. We must bear their responsibility raise their flag high and wear their swords. We want to stand in one line as a rigid solid building as the Quran had said. Islam does not accept party members for they are the enemy of Islam and linked to Western circles and to America. We as Muslims are gathered together by one word and we are in one party which is the party of Allah. Because the party members want to achieve gains for themselves and gains to the East and the West...

Parties and partisans in Islam harmed Islam and this simplicity stupidity and flatness and farce called party movements of Islam adopted by America must end...

Any person who does not aim his gun towards America and Israel and their allies in NATO is not a Muslim. There are not parties no factions and no sects in Islam and the party mentioned in Islam is the party of Allah". [quote marks as received]

The leader added the vast majority of Muslims are oppressed in Africa and Asia because they are ruled by a Christian ruler who takes its orders from Europe and Muslims are insulted and not respected...

Islam had been distorted by trivialities and deeds which the partisans wanted to stick on it and by the foolishness some Muslim lived in. Whoever boasts that he is a follower of the CIA and says that he is from the Muslim

Brotherhood, he is free to follow the U.S. intelligence but must not say that he is a Muslim because this is a distortion of Islam. We must say that he is an outsider to Islam and he is with the CIA". [quote marks as received]

The leader said "The Muslims who number around a billion do not count in the face of 2 million Jews, for they have taken from us the holy Qods [Jersualem]. Nations had attacked us as hungry people attack their food plates. Russia on one hand, America on another, Hindus from another, China from another, France from another and the Israeli and the Jews are all now actually attacking this plate of food, which means that we have turned into a food table of the great Islam which was the last religion for all the people. The best nation had ever come out to the people finally turns into a food plate from which the Jews are eating without washing their hands and the Americans with their feet and this is the state of Muslim".

The leader asserted that there is a Jewish march on the countries of Islam supported by a brutal force from the Americans and the new crusade which demands us to launch a true confrontation and a true challenge. He asserted the need that all other trivialities should end those which call themselves Islamic movement within, they should vanish and be replaced by jamahiri leaderships for there will be no leader of a party, no chairman of a society, no imam for a mosque and no leader for a sect. You must inform the Islamic masses of such trends so they can decide to cancel the gains which stuck to Islam and Muslims...

"We are outside our countries in the big house in the party of Allah, in the countries of Islam, apart from that they are all numerous books and we gather around one book which the Holy Quran. We don't have profits except one prophet which is Muhammad. We don't have numerous gods, we only have numerous enemies whom we are fighting one-by-one".

The leader says if the number of the zionist Jews who occupied Palestine and the sacred places therein one milliard, they would occupy all the regions of the Moslems.

Addressing the Islamic delegations participating in the seminar organized by the Islamic Call Society, he says:-

"You are one milliard Moslems, but you have not been able to liberate Al-Qods. On the contrary, you are not encountering the U.S.A. which is supportive to the zionists. You are friendly to it.

He points out that there some Moslems who go to the U.S.A. saying to it: "I am Moslem brother give me money expressing his readiness in return to get recruited in the CIA giving it all information against his country. [no end quote as received]

The leader refers in this regard to one of the elements of Moslem brotherhood of the Libyans who supplied the U.S.A. with important maps showing vital targets in Al-Jamahiriyah which were used by the U.S.A. in its barbaric and abortive aggression against great Al-Jamahiriyah.

The leader has stressed that we want glory for the Islamic nation to have power on the planet assumed by the Islamic nation. We don't want power for ourselves.

He says: "If some one of you has formed a party aiming at assuming power, this will show that he is sick because he wants to subjugate Islam. This makes him cooperate with the enemies of Islam because he wants power."

He adds that we want power and glory for the Islamic nation on this planet to rout zionism, crusades, racism, imperialism and all movements hostile to Islam worldwide. We want power for the nation and the rule is assumed by Allah. We shred all the yellow books and the distortions of dealers in the Quran. We should uphold the Quran on our heads and drop anything else to form the party of Allah and abolish other parties. Practically, we ought to have these leaderships announce an agreement on forming Islamic leadership of the masses having no connection with rulers aiming at unifying and supporting the nation. This leadership should not seek a post, prestige, money, wages or thanks. We want to unify the nation...to support it bringing about glory to it and back it up.

We want to form an Islamic leadership having no king, crown prince, or a prince recognizing nothing of the nonsense of the middle ages or the nonsense of the Western colonialisation... not to be at variance by partisanship or sectarianism because this is prohibited by the Holy Quran.

He maintains that all the present parties, movements and societies pertaining to us ought to merge into the party of Allah to include all the nation. Also all the books and nonsense ought to be burned to protect the book of Allah, for it is one book. No one is disputing this.

We ought not from now on discuss matters pertaining to our religion because they are resolved and constant such as pilgrimage, fasting, prayers... because they have been revealed in the Quran.

He points out that any discussion on these matters specified in the Holy Quran will be at the expense of the battle for the liberation of Al-Qods and the battle for the liberation of the U.S.A...against backwardness and ignorance. He points out that whoever discusses them after being explained by the Quran in terms of their rulings is a puppet and traitorous representing the fifth column of imperialism and zionism.

The leader says that these things are already specified and no innovation (ijtihad) is allowed about them because this will be novelty which is straying from the straight path leading one to hell.

Should there be innovation, it should be in electricity, electronics, atoms or lazers, but not in the message

relayed by Gabriel to select and drop according to one's likes and dislikes. In this way, one cannot be a Moslem.

Whoever discusses about Islam is the one who wants to understand it so as to embrace it. As for a Moslem, he should not do so as Allah says: "Truly, guidance has been shown distinguishing it from non-guidance." Allah also says: "Today I have made your religion complete thereby accomplishing my grace and have decided to make Islam your religion. [no end quotes as received]

The leader maintains that we should all get unified around the one book of Allah, but in running our temporal, local, economic, political and social affairs because we have our own countries and nationalisms, we are free to transform wage-workers to partners to put under their control the manufactures to run them and take their share from the production...to let the slaves wage a revolution against their masters...to change our systems from a republic to a jamahiriyah.

He points out that these matters have no connection with religion. Rather, they relate to our specifics and our political conditions prevailing in our countries.

He says: We are the fundamental antithesis to the U.S.A. and the zionists as well as the West and the enemies of Islam. After routing these enemies, we go to the secondary antithesis, being nonfundamental, inside our own countries.

This secondary antithesis is represented by your being free to change your systems from a republic to a jamahiriya thereby having your workers becoming partners, not wage-workers... to let the slaves on this planet in your countries wage a revolution against the exploiting feudalists.

At the international Islamic level, we ought to form the party of Allah to take the course of the book of Allah. It will have a jamahiri Islamic leadership having establishments in various spheres. It should have a budget like those of the International Council of Churches or the Jewish International Council or still the establishments of social security, the aim being to give protection to the poor and orphans of the Moslem families worldwide so as to enable them to receive support from everywhere to make them feel their belonging to this religion.

For example, we can send an envelope from the establishments of the social security belonging to the jamahiri international Islamic leadership to a family of orphans in far-off place such as Mahal al-Thib or south of the Philippines because these people are needy. This support given by us because we have at our disposal capabilities. We have partners. We have banks.

The leader maintains that we should not rely on Islamic governments because these governments have not been able to achieve anything on such cases in that the problem facing these governments is political. These governments aspire for rule. As such anyone supporting them in achieving this is supportive to them thereby supporting the Jews and Christians who help them in their rule.

The leader maintains that the present Islamic governments have not been able to replace Salah al-Din, Aqaba ibn Nafi' or Khalid ibn al-Walid. Rather, it is the Islamic masses and the people's establishments that are to replace these symbols that have achieved glory to Islam until it became of great esteem.

The leader points out that Islam is degraded now. We want to eliminate this degradation. We are confident in our potentials. We are capable of this. We are only short of having a get-together like this and a unity like this one as well as a resolution like this one.

The leader proposes that out of this historic get-together an Islamic, international and people's leadership be formed having no connection with the present regimes and not to struggle against them, but against the enemies of Islam and for the unification of Islam and mobilizing the resources of Islam. This leadership is to have a budget, to have in future banks, establishments for social security, companies for work and investments to be able to spend on its strategic project, thereby pulling the carpet from under the Islamic governments in the long run, namely those that don't go with us down this road.

He says: "Whoever among you who fights his government alone if it is unjust and puppet, he is from now on a member of a broad Islamic front and with a people's international Islamic leadership supporting him and standing by his side against his oppressors and torturers. [no end quotes as received]

The leader maintains that nobody will lose anything from this resolution. Rather, the community finding itself as an outcast now, will see itself as a part of the great party of Allah which encompasses the Islamic nation thereby being a member of this party. Should any harm be inflicted upon this community, we will all get together and support it.

The leader has called upon the delegates at this gathering to take the opportunity of having a zone in the Islamic world, namely, Great al-Jamahiriyah, where they can pass any resolution without fear or apprehension.

He has stressed that he is resolved to continue the struggle to unify the rank and file of this Islamic nation to assume its resources and control its fate capable of encountering and able for sacrificing as martyrs new batches of its citizens against the zionists and the enemies of Islam.

Sudan

Minister on Iranian 'Insult,' Department 'Purge'

PM2809083789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 89 p 4

[Kamal Hamid report: "Sudanese Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Purge Aimed at Uprooting Shortcomings, and Mansur Khalid's Men Are a Problem"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has said that Sudan's foreign relations are now in their best status, and Sudan now maintains special relations with all its Arab and African neighbors.

But the Sudanese foreign minister, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before leaving for the United States yesterday morning at the head of the Sudanese delegation to the 44th UN General Assembly session, added that Sudan's relations with Iran are very poor, indicating that Tehran has never sent an ambassador to Khartoum—only a charge d'affaires.

He said: What happened recently, namely the insult to Sudan on Iranian television, was unjustifiable. And we are not convinced of the Iranian justification that the television is an independent organ under no control.

Answering a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the dismissal of a large number of Sudanese ambassadors, the Sudanese foreign minister said: The purge policy was very essential in most government departments, especially the Foreign Ministry, which was suffering shortcomings, factionalism, and partiality which affected work within it. That is why there was a need to put things right, especially with regard to some of the centers of power planted by a former foreign minister, namely Dr Mansur Khalid, whose objective was to ensure that the performance of any foreign minister succeeding him would be made superficial through the presence of his men, implementing his policy to the letter despite their claim to be leading the Sudanese people's uprising.

Sahlul added: We know well who Mansur Khalid's men inside the Foreign Ministry are, from the undersecretary and ambassador level to the level of minor officials, but we did not want to dispense with all of them because we hoped that they would return to reason and work for their country's interests.

Sahlul emphasized Sudan's fixed position on the Palestinian issue and Sudan's support for the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, hoping that the international community will continue to move toward more understanding of the Palestinian people's cause.

Leftists Reportedly Planning Strikes Arrested

AB2609131089 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 25 Sep 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's ruling Military Council seems to have decided to silence those of its political critics still at large in addition to the sweeping economic austerity measures imposed last week. The measures are designed to lift Sudan's ailing economy off the floor. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Brigadier Ibrahim Nayil Adam, who is in charge of security in the Military Council, said there had been several arrests in the past few days. He did not give any more details about the detentions, but reports circulating in Khartoum say several Communists have been picked up.

Since the government imposed the austerity measures 6 days ago, removing subsidies on basic consumer commodities, thereby increasing prices and cutting government expenditure, there had been reports that the trade unions, which are dominated by Communists and other leftists, had been planning strikes. Trade unions have, of course, been dissolved. But individual trade unions have apparently been operating underground. Recently, the Bar Association, the lawyers' trade union, circulated a leaflet calling the new military rulers in Khartoum a group of adventurous soldiers. Then on Wednesday evening a group of students at Khartoum University, a hotbed of opposition to successive governments in Sudan, interrupted a rally being addressed by a member of the Military Council. The students called on the government to resign immediately and restore democracy. No attempts were made to stop the students, and there were no arrests then. But government sources blamed Communists for the disturbances and the arrests then started.

More protests have been anticipated. Some doctors have said they will go on strike next Thursday to protest the introduction of the austerity measures. Engineers are also talking of taking industrial action. Strikes are currently illegal in Sudan, and the arrests appear to be aimed at ensuring that strikes do not go ahead. [end recording]

President Says SPLA Soldiers Deserting

AB2709224089 Dakar PANA in English 1640 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Sep (JANA/PANA)—Sudanese president, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Al-Bashir, says several soldiers of the opposition SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces have begun laying down arms and joining the ranks of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

In an address Tuesday in Khartoum to officers of the Seventh Sudanese Mobile Battalion, Al-Bashir affirmed that a large number of SPLA soldiers are convinced

about the futility of continuing the war and have been laying down arms to join camps of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Minister on Need for Water Cooperation With Egypt

EA2609114589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Dr Ya'qub Abu Shura Musa, the minister of irrigation and (?hydraulic resources), this morning opened the regular meeting of the permanent joint technical board for the Nile waters at the board's headquarters in Khartoum. The minister said in his address that the National Salvation Revolution is seeking to strengthen, consolidate, and entrench relations with Egypt in all essential areas.

His excellency went on to say: The revolution will also act to strengthen the close relations between Sudan and the Arab and African states, particularly with the neighboring states, most of which are of the Nile Basin. He stressed that the government was keen to strengthen technical cooperation in the area of the waters of the Nile with the states of the Nile, as well as the states of the sources, in Ethiopia and the Equatorial Lakes sector [in Uganda].

Dr Abu Shura said the war in the south of the country has obstructed development in that important part of the country. The irrigation minister stressed that the government was making efforts to solve the problem of the south and to achieve peace. Dr Abu Shura said the government was pursuing a well worked out policy on harnessing water resources, particularly those of the Nile, in addition to other sources. He stressed the importance of cooperation between Egypt and Sudan in this field, in order that national and joint projects might be defined.

Abd al-Karim Afifi, leader of the Egyptian side and chairman of the board's current session, gave a briefing on the agenda. He said the meeting's participants would discuss their final position concerning the international arbitration on the dispute over the excavation of the Jonglei canal between the Sudanese Government and a group of French companies.

Deadline for Registration of Aliens Extended

EA2609163689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26th Sep (SUNA)—Some 42,155 refgees and aliens have been so far registered in the framework of the aliens and refugees registration project, Lieutenant Colonel Adil Shams al-Din, the supervisor of the registration centers at the national capital, said. He added that in accordance with a directive by the interior minister, the period of registration has been extended until October in a bid to provide ample time for the refugees and aliens to register at centers. Intensive campaigns will be launched following the expiry of the deadline of the registration to round up those who do not register their names, he noted.

New SUNA Director General Appointed

EA2509224789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has issued a decree appointing Mr Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin [director of broadcasting under Numayri] director-general of SUNA, and Mr Abu Bakr Waziri deputy director-general of the agency with effect from 23 September 1989.

Tunisia

Justice Minister Replaces Hedi Baccouche

LD2709131389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The president's office has issued the following statement:

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided to appoint Mr Hamed Karoui [former minister of justice] as prime minister, replacing Mr Hedi Baccouche, who will be recalled for other duties.

New Prime Minister's Statement

LD2709133989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] At Al-Jumhuriyah Palace in Carthage at noon today President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who made the following statement:

[Begin Karoui recording] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has honored me by appointing me prime minister. I expressed to him my pride in this confidence and my firm commitment to shoulder these new duties according to his directives, starting from the 7 November statement and according to his various speeches and directives, especially his speech last 25 July.

The president advised me to consolidate the democratic path, consecrate the state of law and institutions, and increase the dialogue and consultations with the various political and social sides so that we can achieve national reconciliation.

Such correct groundwork will enable us to continue the economic measures. His directives are that we could achieve more economic and investment revival by encouraging initiatives in all fields and we could fulfill the aims of comprehensive development in the economic, social, and cultural fields, which will enable us to

overcome all difficulties and to rise up to the challenges—the main one being unemployment—and to pay more attention to our social issues.

May God guide us to what is good for our homeland. Peace be with you. [end recording]

Baccouche Wishes Karoui Success

LD2809005289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] A ceremony took place 27 September at the government house in Kasba during which Hamed Karoui assumed his new duties as prime minister succeeding Hedi Baccouche. In his speech Hedi Baccouche congratulated Hamed Karoui on the trust President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has placed in him by appointing as prime minister and wished him success in his new duties. [passage omitted]

Hedi Baccouche urged Hamed Karoui to inform the head of state of his readiness to continue his contribution to support the 7 November principles, achieve democracy and pluralism, and guard human rights to provide the conditions of overall development and the Tunisian people's progress.

Foreign Minister Cited on Ties With Egypt

JN2809090489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 5

[By Salamah Hasan in Tunis]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM, Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh has stressed that Egyptian-Tunisian relations continue to grow stronger day by day. He described these relations as excellent and pure, and explained that Tunisian officials hold the same views as their brothers in Egypt. He said there is constant Egyptian-Tunisian coordination and consultations, always with the best results.

The Tunisian foreign minister said that to emphasize this constant coordination and understanding between the two fraternal countries, the higher Egyptian-Tunisian committee, headed by the prime ministers of the two countries, will soon meet in Tunis. The meetings, he said, had been postponed due to commitments beyond the control of the Egyptian side and the sickness of Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, may God grant him recovery.

The committee will discuss in its meetings ways to boost cooperation and activate economic and trade ties, as well as everything that would push forward joint action in the interests of the two brotherly peoples.

He pointed out the coordination and consultations on the visit of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Egypt in response to the invitation of his brother, President Husni Mubarak. The current commitments of the two leaders, however, prevent this, he said. We hope, he added, that these commitments will be coordinated so that the visit, which we hope will support Arab rapprochement and push forward common action and cooperation betwen the two countries, can take place.

Abdelhamid Escheikh believes that the meeting of the Arab Maghreb leaders, which was held during the 1 September festivities in fraternal Libya, provided a good opportunity for exchanging views and for consultations on supporting the march of the Maghreb union.

Asked about comments and analyses appearing in Tunisian papers about a reconciliation between Presidents Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi, the Tunisian foreign minister stressed that Tunis blesses every rapprochement between two Arab countries; it also blesses what brothers in Libya and Egypt achieved in terms of closing ranks and removing divisions. Tunis, he added, believes it is its duty to endeavor to achieve such rapprochement if possible.

Asked about what questions some parties have been raised with a view to casting doubts on the Tunisian-Egyptian relations and Egypt's return to the Arab League, particularly about the Arab League headquarters and whether it should remain in Tunis or return to Cairo, Abdelhamid Escheikh explained that many questions have been raised in this respect, but what can be stressed—as I said earlier—is that the Tunisian-Egyptian relations are excellent. Concerning the venue of the headquarters of the Arab League, continued the Tunisian minister, the issue does not concern Tunis or Egypt alone; it is bound with the will of the Arab leaders and the Arab consensus. He stressd that there will be no hard feelings between Tunis and Egypt over whether the headquarters should stay in Tunis or move to Cairo. I say to those who try to cast doubts, said the minister, that we are mature in Egypt and Tunis and know how to look after our interests. The issue does not concern the will of the two countries only, it concerns all Arab League members. Tunis supports Arab consensus, which decides whether the headquarters should stay in Tunis, return to Cairo, or anything else. What I want to stress anew is that there are no problems between Egypt and Tunisia; things are very clear. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government Supports Sentences on Mosque Bombers

LD2709162489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The Government and people of Kuwait have supported the sentences based on the shari'a which were pronounced against the misguided group who broke the consensus and shed blood in the holy month of Dhu al-Hija in the vicinity of the holy mosque in Mecca, thereby taking advantage of a great religious occasion. This was part of the statement made by the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Kingdom, 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad al-Bakr, to AL-NADWA newspaper, which was published today. He said Kuwait is concerned with the safety of the two holy mosques and the Kingdom's security.

The Kuwaiti ambassador also commented on the speech made by the custodian of the two holy mosques which said the words which everyone needed to hear: "The relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sister, Kuwait, is too strong, too sincere, and too deep-rooted to be undermined by intrigues, incidents, and suspicions. We are convinced that every individual in the Government and people of sister Kuwait is aware of this fact, and of the great cohesion existing between the two ruling families and between the two fraternal peoples."

The Kuwaiti ambassador to the Kingdom said at the end of his statement: "Kuwait believes in the efficiency of the Saudi judiciary and believes in its execution of the sentence as if it were pronounced by Kuwait, because we are the same people and the same government."

Amir Visits France, Meets With Mitterrand

For reportage on the visit of Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to France, including his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 26 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Saudia Arabia

Bangladesh Group Threatens King Over Beheadings

BK2609140889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 26 (AFP)—A previously unknown Islamic group, the Bangladesh Revolutionary Justice Organisation, has threatened to take revenge on Saudi King Fahd for last week's beheading of 16 Kuwaitis. The Bangladesh Revolutionary Justice Organisation made the threat in an undated, handwritten leaflet received in the mail Tuesday by the Dhaka bureau of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

In the leaflet, the group pledged to take revenge "as soon as possible" against the Saudi Government, and in particular King Fahd, for the "unlawful killing" of the Kuwaiti "oppressed brothers."

In broken English, it said: "We Bangladeshi Muslims by the help of Allah... we will promise to take revenge against the Government of Saudi Arabia particularly King Fahd as soon as possible because of unlawful killing of our Kuwaiti oppressed brothers. Allah will help us."

The 16 Shiite Muslims were executed last week for involvement in three bomb blasts in July during the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca which left one person dead and 16 injured. Most of those beheaded last Thursday were of Iranian origin. In pre-recorded statements on Saudi television, 13 said they had received instructions and explosives from two members of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. Iranian officials quickly denied any role in the blasts and denounced the executions, warning that the Saudi ruling family would suffer the consequences.

United Arab Emirates

Ship Carrying Toxic Waste Reportedly Changes Name

JN2809081489 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 1

[By Sulayman al-Mahi and AL-BAYAN bureaus]

[Excerpt] Dubayy, Ra's al-Khaymah—AL-BAYAN has learned that the Cypriot ship "Bruno Americana" [name as published], which is carrying a cargo of toxic waste, yesterday changed its name to "Gulf Bassilar" [name published in English] in order to deceive the border and port authorities of states in the region and so that it can unload its cargo in one of the ports or in the Gulf waters.

Informed sources told AL-BAYAN that the authorities of Saqr Port in Ra's al-Khaymah discovered this change and informed the proper authorities. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Groups Attending Celebration

Meets With PDRY Delegation

JN2709160689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received in his office at noon today Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and minister of defense; Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for unity affairs; and delegation members from the southern part of the homeland participating in the celebration of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution.

Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad and Rashid Muhammad Thabit conveyed to the brother leader president and

secretary general the greetings and congratulations of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and members of the Politburo from the southern part of our homeland on the 27th anniversary of the glorious Yemeni revolution.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues about unity between the two parts.

The meeting was attended by Brother Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Yahya al-Mutawakkil, member of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee; and Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member.

Receives Libyan Delegation

JN2709161889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received in his office at noon today Brother Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Libyan Revolution and head of the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah delegation participating in our celebration of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution.

Major al-Khuwaylidi conveyed to the brother leader and secretary general the greetings and good wishes of his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and the fraternal Libyan Arab people, on the occasion of our celebration of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution.

Major al-Khuwaylidi expressed the Libyan Arab people's pride in the achievements of the Yemeni revolution regarding important developments in the various economic, social, and military fields, and in educating the Yemeni individual. These achievements are considered a great benefit not only to Yemen, but to the Libyan Arab people and the whole Arab nation. He praised the democratic steps taken in our country to eliminate the remnants of the past. Through these steps, our people in Yemen have been able to thwart all futile attempts against their revolutionary march, realize their aspirations for development and progress, and reestablish Yemeni unity, a basic pillar for achieving Arab unity.

The brother leader president praised the level of struggle and the fraternal relations between the two peoples and revolutions in the two fraternal countries. He pointed out that the Libyan and Yemeni revolutions are fighting in the same trench to achieve the Arab nation's goals of development and unity, and are confronting all its greedy and lurking enemies, particularly the Zionist enemy.

The meeting was attended by Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Yahya al-Mutawakkil, member of the Consultative Council and head of the National Charter Institute; 'Ali Wafid al-Ghusayn, secretary general of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee member; Colonel Hamud al-Shibami, director of the commander in chief's office; and Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Hasan al-Shatir, chief of moral and political guidance in the Armed Forces.

On the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by the members of the Libyan delegation participating in our people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the glorious revolution.

Husayn Chairs Joint Meeting on Sanaa Summit

JN2709145089 Baghdad INA in English
1410 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 27, INA—President Saddam Husayn today presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party.

During the meeting, deliberations and results of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit concluded in Sanaa yesterday were reviewed.

The council and the leadership extolled the important results reached by the meeting during which 16 agreements regulating cooperation, coordination and integration in the fields of economy, transport, communications, movement of citizens, culture and information and other fields were concluded.

The RCC and the regional leadership also expressed satisfaction over the march of the ACC which has made good steps along the path of implementing the constructive national objectives defined by the council charter within a period of seven months since the founding of the council last February.

The RCC and leadership stressed confidence that the ACC represents a basic mainstay for the joint Arab action and national work for deepening principles of unity and its applicable and practical practices.

President Husayn gave his directives on the necessity of keenness on the continued and active implementation of the agreements that were signed and the resolutions adopted by the council summits in Alexandria and Sanaa.

Five Army Divisions To Be Disbanded by 15 Oct

JN2709190489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, chaired a meeting this evening of the Armed Forces General Command.

During the meeting, they discussed the reduction of the size of the army. During the meeting, it was decided to disband five divisions of the ground forces. The decision will be implemented immediately and should be completed by 15 October 1989.

This troop reduction, coupled with the Armed Forces General Command's decision in June 1989 to disband the 1 Special Army Corps, came about to affirm Iraq's peaceful intentions. The reduction also affirmed the capabilities of the armed forces, which acquired a rich experience in the war while defending the homeland and the Arab nation's security.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Industry and Military Industries Minister Husayn Kamil.

Tariq 'Aziz Departs for UN Meeting in New York

JN2809093089 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for New York this morning at the head of Iraq's delegation to the meetings of the 44th UN General Assembly session.

GDR Construction Minister Concludes 3-Day Visit

Meets With Sa'dun Hammadi

JN2709150089 Baghdad INA in English
1330 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 27, INA—Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy premier, met today with Mr. Wolfgang Junker, minister of construction in the German Democratic Reppublic.

During the meeting, the friendly bilateral relations and means of promoting them were discussed.

Cooperation Minutes Signed

JN2709180889 Baghdad INA in English
1555 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 27, INA—Iraq and the German Democratic Republic today signed here a joint minutes for cooperation at the end of the Iraqi-GDR Joint Committee for Technical, Trade, Economic and Scientific Cooperation.

The minutes was signed by Mr. Husayn Kamil, Iraqi minister of industry and military industrialization, and Mr. Wolfgang Junker, GDR minister of construction.

The minutes provides for increasing volume of trade exchange between the two countries for this and next year, promoting cooperation in the petrochemical industries, engineering, textile equipment and drilling of artesian and oil wells.

The Iraqi-GDR joint minutes also provides for cooperation in the scientific field by delegating experts, increasing training courses, transfer of technology and also cooperation in railways and ports equipment.

It also covered supplying Iraq with machines and agricultural equipment, spare parts and water pumping machines, and defined the commodities to be exchanged by the two countries.

The committee will hold its next meeting in the GDR during the second half of next year.

Junker Leaves Baghdad

JN2709214689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] [Passage indistinct] GDR Construction Industry Minister Wolfgang Junker and his delegation left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, Junker headed the GDR side to the meetings of the 11th session of the Joint Iraqi-GDR Committee, which concluded its meetings in Baghdad today.

The GDR minister was seen off at the airport by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industries, and the GDR ambassador to Baghdad.

RCC's Ibrahim Receives Malian Sports Minister

JN2509182089 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 25, INA—Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], received in audience today Mr Bakary Traore, minister of sports, arts and culture in the Republic of Mali.

During the audience, Mr. Ibrahim received a message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Mr. Moussa Traore, the president of Mali. They discussed means of developing bilateral relations as well as Arab and African issues of common interests.

Paper Sees Israeli Media Campaign Against Iraq

JN2209104889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper here today says the Zionist entity is again using its papers and other news media to wage a campaign of lies and false allegations aimed at hampering Iraq's progress. These lies also are intended to prevent Iraq's possession of the necessary technological and scientific skills to develop its industries in cooperation with other advanced countries in this field.

In its comment, the paper notes that the Zionist propaganda campaign has intensified since 8 March 1988, when Iraq and Iran reached the cease-fire agreement. This shows the violent shock the Zionist entity has suffered from the great Iraqi victory over the Iranian enemy.

AL-THAWRAH says the Zionist enemy's continuous propaganda campaign is directed not just at Iraq but at all Arab countries seeking to develop their scientific and technological capabilities and further their reconstruction and progress.

The paper says: Although Iraq is the main target, the Zionist enemy threat is directed at Arab countries that want to follow Iraq's example. The Zionist enemy has not concealed its threats since its criminal attack on the peaceful Tammuz nuclear reactor in June 1981.

AL-THAWRAH points out that by its campaign against Iraq, the Zionist entity wants to divert the world's attention from its own hostile activities, such as obtaining the necessary technology, knowhow, and raw materials for producing weapons of mass destruction and for building nuclear reactors.

The paper continues: The Zionist entity's frequent offers to cooperate with certain Western governments, scientific institutions, and commercial firms in the exchange of nuclear expertise are geared toward producing weapons of mass destruction and for building nuclear reactors. The Zionist enemy's Western alliances encourage it to continue to threaten the peoples of the region, as well as world peace and security. A most recent example was the tripartite alliance the Zionist entity proposed to Britain and the United States for the exchange of nuclear expertise and the building of sophisticated military industries. Britain, however, turned down the proposal.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH affirms: What the Zionist entity fears most is the Arab brain and willpower. Quite simply, this entity, which has usurped the land of Palestine, is today facing a more different Arab and humane stand than before.

Arens Senses No 'Gap' During Talks With Baker

TA2709213189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says he did not sense any gap between the positions he expressed and those espoused by his U.S. counterpart James Baker during their meeting this evening. Minister Arens, however, added that he and Baker obviously do not agree on everything.

Minister Arens told 'Oded Ben-'Ami, our correspondent in New York, that they discussed ways to further the political process in preparation for the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt, and the U.S. secretary of state. The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night in New York.

Arens said that he briefed Secretary of State Baker on what is expected to take place in the upcoming Inner Cabinet session in Jerusalem next Wednesday when the Egyptian plan will be discussed. He was impressed that the U.S. secretary of state was aware of the differing opinions in the Israeli Cabinet.

Minister Arens is currently due to commence his speech before the UN General Assembly.

Arens Tells UN 'No Alternative' to Shamir Plan

TA2809093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Excerpts] New York—The U.S. "remains fully behind" Premier Shamir's peace plan, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said here yesterday after meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

Arens said that he and Baker had not discussed any new formula for breaking the deadlock in the peace process. A senior State Department official later confirmed U.S. support for the Israeli plan. [passage omitted]

In his speech to the General Assembly, Arens said there is "no alternative" to Shamir's peace plan if progress is to be made towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arens, whose address was delivered shortly before midnight Israel time, also issued a call to ambassadors of all Arab nations that have no relations with Israel to meet with him "to discuss how we can move from belligerency to peace."

Aides to Arens said they plan to call each of the Arab missions to the UN today to request formal meetings with their foreign ministers or delegates.

Arens made no direct reference in his speech to the Egyptian peace plan, much of which he has said does not constitute a new initiative, but simply involves clarifications of Israel's election proposal for the territories.

The thrust of his speech, which contained no new proposals or initiatives, was that Israel will not accept any tampering with the letter and spirit of the Shamir plan.

Referring to that plan, Arens said: "There is no alternative way to move the Middle Eastern peace process forward. Rejection of this initiative is synonymous with rejecting progress towards peace.

"We call upon all nations to support Israel's peace initiative, and we call on the Arab world to respond favourably to it. This is not the time to wring concessions from Israel that relate to the permanent settlement. Our immediate objective must be to put an end to violence and to get negotiations going. Putting the cart before the horse can only stall the process itself."

Arens said that if a delegation of Arabs from "Judaea, Samaria and Gaza," elected by residents of the territories, sits and negotiates with Israel, "there is an excellent chance that negotiations will lead to agreement. Moreover, the democratic experience, not prevalent in the Middle East as yet, will no doubt serve as an example to all the nations in the area."

Arens met earlier yesterday with Julio Londono, the foreign minister of Colombia, who pressed him about reports of Israeli civilians being involved with the drug cartels in that country.

Londono expressed concern that these reports may influence relations between Israel and Colombia.

Arens stressed that Israel will do all it can to fight the international drug cartels, and expressed solidarity with Colombia's battle against drugs.

Shamir Raps 'Arrogrant' Labor Moves in Address

TA2809064489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Report by Sheli Yehimovitch]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday sent messages to Palestinians, Egyptians, the Labor Party heads, and to his rivals inside the Likud.

Speaking last night at a Likud convention at the Mann Auditorium to launch the Histadrut elections, he said: Judaea and Samaria Arabs must understand that violence, casualties, and suffering are all in vain, and the longer they pursue this course, the more they will suffer.

[Begin Shamir recording] This violent rampage must stop. [applause] We were not defeated by bombs and shells, and we will not be defeated by firebombs, knives, and stones. People suggest that we agree to hand the decision on the destiny and future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza over to the terrorist organizations called the PLO. Is this possible? It is not possible. It will not happen! [applause] Never! [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 September carries a related report on pages 1 and 12 by Dan Petreanu, Mikhal Yudelman, and Jeff Black, adding that "the premier insisted that 'we will never negotiate with the PLO, never give up territory in exchange for peace, because this will lead to a Palestinian state, and we will never accept the division of Jerusalem'."]

The prime minister said Labor Party leaders are acting in an arrogant manner and weakening the country by presenting stands contradictory to this one, which is also the government's stand. At this point in time, he said, I do not know what will happen to the unity government. I would like those who are undermining the government to pay a heavy political price.

Immediately afterward, the prime minister dispatched an unequivocal and even emotional statement of support for a member of his camp, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Minister Arens, said the prime minister, winning applause from the audience, is now taking action on the important political front, where he is carrying out a great and difficult mission. One can disagree with his move, said Shamir, but Minister Arens is a man of pure heart, true to those who sent him and loyal to the Herut way. [passage omitted]

Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i, however, launched an offensive in replying to the prime minister. The Likud did not assume leadership of the government in order to implement the Alignment's outlook, said David Levi. Ari'el Sharon said: The Central Committee resolution of 5 June is binding.

[Begin Sharon recording] This running around with the Egyptian ruler must be stopped at once. Israel has a peace plan of its own, one that was endorsed by the government and to which several guiding lines were appended and are binding on all the Likud representatives in the Cabinet. [end recording]

Sharon added that only this plan may be discussed and in one place only: Israel. Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i demanded that the Likud Central Committee be convened at once and that Central Committee members be briefed on all the political moves.

Peres Claims Meeting With Palestinians 'Close'

TA2809061189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Report by U.S.-based correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Another Israeli-Egyptian encounter will take place in New York today: Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Having completed his talks in Washington last night, Shim'on Peres said that in his opinion, the encounter between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation is very close, to come immediately after solving the question of the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Peres asserts that he was told unequivocally that the administration does not intend to allow the present momentum to die.

Weizman, Rabin Aim To Oust Party Chief Peres

TA2709104589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] A new political alliance was formed in the Labor Party leadership yesterday, involving Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Minister 'Ezer Weizman. In a private meeting the two held yesterday in the defense minister's office, Weizman told Rabin that from now on he views him as the person best suited to lead the Labor Party in the next elections. Rabin, for his part, promised to inform Weizman of all political developments related to the peace process.

The Weizman-Rabin rapprochement has another angle, which is the deep schism that has evolved in relations between Shim'on Peres and Weizman. Weizman wanted to get back at Peres for going back on promises he had made to him when Weizman decided to join the Labor Party. Weizman also wants revenge for his long-standing feeling that Peres is ignoring him. In private conversations, Weizman used very sharp terms against Peres, accusing him, among other things, of swindling and lying. Several days ago, in a closed circle of friends, Weizman said: "My greatest revenge on Shim'on would be for me to do everything to prevent him from continuing to head the Labor Party."

Rabin-Weizman Pact Denied

TA2809054289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is playing down yesterday's comments by Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman that Rabin is the Labor politician best suited to further the peace process. Sources in the Defense Ministry say the meeting between Rabin and Weizman took place in the context of various internal Labor Party discussions on the diplomatic process. The sources said that Rabin made no political pacts with Weizman and has no intention of declaring his own diplomatic initiative.

In Haifa, Rabin expressed regret that Weizman had distracted public attention from the central issue which, he said, is the advancement of the government's plan for elections in the territories as a step toward the diplomatic solution.

Basyuni Calls for 'Clarifications,' 'Dialogue'

TA2709183789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, said today that Egypt wants clarifications from

Israel, and has invited an Israeli delegation to Cairo to hold an Israeli-Egyptian dialogue on the plan for elections in the territories.

[Begin Basyuni recording in English] We presented to Israel clarifications. We would like to hear from Israel their clarifications. And we present also ideas that Egypt will invite a Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation to come to Cairo to talk about, kind of like a dialogue, about the election plan. [end recording]

The Egyptian ambassador was talking to our correspondent Nava Kohen at a New Year's reception at the Israeli president's residence.

U.S. Plan Seen Endangering Government Unity

TA2509132589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Sep 89 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The PLO Authorizes... The PLO Agrees..."]

[Text] The U.S. document, rather than Mubarak's 10 points, is the factor threatening government unity, since three of the document's four clauses define the PLO's status in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. The United States now wants Israel's assent.

In continuing the public debate over the 10 points, Israeli politicians are in fact flogging a dead horse because Israel has in the meantime been requested to agree to them a priori. Egypt and the United States have bypassed these controversial points with a draft guaranteeing that the PLO will have the status of **a supreme authority** in every Israeli-Palestinian debate: "The PLO will agree," "the PLO will authorize," "the PLO will not object." The clauses that Israel is asked to accept all start with these explicit words. Although the Egyptians have "toned down" their written version, they have admitted in conversations that the PLO is being granted authority to dictate the conditions, and even the contents, of the dialogue. Despite this, the defense minister asserted publicly that the process does not involve an agreement with the PLO. Rabin may explain his curious statement by saying that the PLO has not endorsed the document yet. He knows, however, that "prior to taking its show to Tunisia," Washington expects to receive an Israeli reply; therefore, there is no hiding behind formal pretexts. And there is no doubt that the "show" mentions neither autonomy nor a transition period, which are the foundations of the Israeli peace initiative. The only relic left of the initiative now is the elections.

Mubarak's 10 points, designed and proposed by the Americans and the Egyptians as the Palestinian delegation's starting point in its deliberations with Israel, also make no mention of autonomy. The Egyptians also mollified Israel by not mentioning the Palestinian state. The very balance between not mentioning the Palestinian state and not mentioning the issue of autonomy indicates that, after the basis for an interim arrangement according to Israel's initiative is omitted, it will be difficult to bridge the abyss likely to be created in the Cairo encounter. The Egyptian explanation that the Palestinian delegation will use the 10 points as their premises, while the Israelis will be able to use their own initiative, does not improve the Israeli initiative; on the contrary, it runs counter to it.

The Knesset members who at today's Knesset session will attempt to harass the house with proposals regarding the government's treatment of Mubarak's points are not exempt from learning the true facts. They may then stop being more Mubarakish than Mubarak.

The most convincing argument for rejecting the American-Egyptian initiative was in fact raised by Yitzhaq Rabin, who spoke of the erroneous precedent set in 1981 when the Cabinet agreed to a cease-fire with the PLO on the northern border. He was thereby warning against creating further precedents liable to be used by successors who are less vehemently opposed to a direct agreement with the PLO.

The crack that was opened in 1981 is regrettable, but a **political** agreement on the Israeli-Palestinian channel of communication is not like an indirect cease-fire agreement or a prisoner exchange deal. In 1981 the government was caught exposed to PLO Katyusha rockets on the northern border and needed a time-out to defend and shelter the civilian population. It learned real fast that this time-out was being used by the PLO to increase its threats to Galilee residents, who became hostages of PLO Katyushas and mortar shells. This fear was the catalyst for the war.

The Israeli agreement to a cease-fire in 1981 was a result of a mistake that was soon followed by another mistake in 1982: the war itself. There is no need to make more mistakes as long as Israel is determined in its claim that the PLO cannot be party to a peace agreement. The fact that Rabin has mentioned the 1981 precedent should caution the government not to make further dangerous precedents, to be followed by others that will finally demolish all the barriers facing the PLO.

The Israeli initiative told the Palestinians: Let us talk together about electing a representation that would run your affairs under autonomy for 5 years. The Egyptians then attempted to erode the foundations of the election plan. They cherry-picked the elections out of it, thus removing the basis for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. They did so by first including the PLO, and second by removing all mention of the interim stage called autonomy. After these two moves—turning the Israeli initiative upside down, leaving only the relic of elections—Mubarak wants an Israeli-Palestinian meeting held in Cairo. Such a meeting without a clearly agreed and defined basis, such as Rabin and Shamir proposed at the beginning, is doomed to fail, and the failure might lead to an explosion.

Had the Knesset members known all the facts, they would not have been so enthusiastic about the 10-point smokescreen. They, just like the rest of the Israeli public,

would have been convinced that Israel is in fact being asked to abandon its peace plan in exchange for an invitation to a minefield in Cairo.

Paper Urges 'Arafat To Eschew UN Address

TA2609182789 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "No Need for a U.S. Visa for 'Arafat"]

[Text] Sixty U.S. senators have signed a petition calling on the U.S. Administration not to grant Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States. The petition was signed even though the aim of 'Arafat's trip—were it to take place—is not to visit the United States, but to go to the United Nations, which unfortunately was set up in New York more than 43 years ago. At that time, no one thought that U.S. contempt for world public opinion would reach a stage where any leader would be prevented from entering the United States.

We do not want to again delve into this subject, which we have addressed in several previous articles, but we wish to cast a glance at another aspect of this issue.

The Palestinian president has still not expressed his desire to go to the United Nations. If indeed he intends to undertake this visit, we would like him to reconsider. There are several hostile parties who want to exploit this issue to divert the international community's attention away from the central issues that the Israeli leaders need to address, issues such as the Egyptian 10 points aimed at progressing toward elections in the occupied territories and the launching of a peace process. More importantly, these parties seek to divert attention from what is taking place in the occupied territories, and the attempts to thwart the intifadah [uprising] and destroy the Palestinian people's morale.

The Palestinian problem does not require a repetition of previous experiences with this issue. More than six months ago when the U.S. Government challenged international will by refusing to grant an entry visa to 'Arafat, the General Assembly meetings were transferred from New York to Geneva to allow 'Arafat to state Palestine's case to the international community. Hence, there is no need now to go through this routine again. We would be sparing the countries of the world the trouble of once again traveling from New York to Geneva. The goal has already been achieved. By refusing to grant an entry visa to 'Arafat, the United States has shown that it is unable to adopt any decisions that might anger Israel.

As to reports that the U.S. Government may decide to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States provided that he does not extend his visit beyond the United Nations headquarters—even if this were indeed what the Palestinians and their leader desire—the fact that such conditions are put forward is a sort of degradation and insult which we unequivocally reject. This is tantamount to rubbing U.S. salt into the Palestinian wound.

Nations always record the behavior of others toward them. Undoubtedly this U.S. conduct toward the Palestinian people and their leaders will, in the long run, have a negative impact on U.S. interests in the region.

What is painful is that this U.S. behavior is occurring at a time when the U.S. Government is engaged in a dialogue with the PLO in Tunis in an effort to advance the peace process and find a formula for mutual understanding and trust between the parties.

This disappointing U.S. behavior rules out the possibility of the United States becoming a neutral mediator working sincerely to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PLO Committees Preparing for Negotiations

TA2709135689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Sep 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by New York correspondent Ran Dagoni, and by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] The PLO leaders have begun preparing position papers on various topical issues in anticipation of the settlement of the territories problem and the start of negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian delegations. The purpose of these documents is to skip the stage of elections and the interim arrangement advocated in the Israeli initiative.

Political sources in Jerusalem have said that the Palestinians are "rushing forward," and explained that the agreements reached between Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Mubarak do not deviate from the Israeli framework, with the exception of the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation. Rabin did not express willingness to skip the stage of elections or interim arrangements.

According to information received in East Jerusalem, the activity of the committees, which have been appointed to provide guidelines for the Palestinian delegation members, focuses on the following areas:

—The political plans and foreign affairs are being coordinated by Nabil Sha'th, the chairman of the Palestine National Council's foreign affairs committee.
—Legal matters are handled by a team coordinated by Professor Anis al-Qasim, a law professor at Kuwait University who functions as 'Arafat's legal affairs adviser.
—Land matters are dealt with by Attorney Ibrahim Bakr, the head of the bar association in Amman, who was deported from the West Bank in early 1967. He specializes in Israeli seizure of land in the territories after the 6-Day War.
—The team dealing with economic and trade affairs is supervised by Muhammad Abu-'Ala', who is the head of SAMAD [as published], Fatah's industrial organization.
—Other committees in charge of agriculture and agricultural products, and labor arrangements between Israel and the autonomous region have also been set up.

These matters will be coordinated by Walid Qumhawwi [name as published] who was expelled from the Nabulus area in 1974.

Senior Palestinian sources told MA'ARIV yesterday that 'Arafat has decided to get the preparations under way to provide the delegation for the negotiations with detailed data and plans in order to demonstrate the dependence of the inhabitants of the territories on the PLO. [passage omitted]

U.S. Informed of Proposed Soviet Barter Deal

TA2809093289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Text] Washington—Vice Premier Shim'on Peres has informed President Bush of a proposed Israeli-Soviet barter arrangement that would bring Israeli fruit and vegetables to the Soviet Union in exchange for Soviet commercial aircraft or aircraft parts for Israel.

THE JERUSALEM POST has learned that Peres discussed the unusual proposal during his meeting in New York with Bush earlier this week.

Peres and his aides are apparently convinced that the proposal, if implemented, could significantly improve relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

According to well-informed U.S. sources, Peres told Bush that the Soviets are very anxious to obtain about $100 million in fresh Israeli fruit and vegetables. In return, the Soviets would be prepared to provide Israel with commercial aircraft parts.

According to the tentative deal, in which former Foreign Ministry director-general David Kimche and the Sha'ul Eisenberg group of companies may be involved, Israel could upgrade the Soviet parts for resale to third countries that use Soviet-made commercial aircraft. Kimche was in Moscow last week discussing the initiation of trade deals.

But Peres' proposal, which is still only being considered, reportedly has not been enthusiastically received by El Al, which has questioned the reliability and safety record of the Soviet aircraft.

U.S. officials, while intrigued by the Israeli idea, were surprised that Peres raised the matter during his meeting with Bush, who was joined at the session by several of his top aides.

Peres disclosed here last night that he had planned tentatively to make a visit to the Soviet Union as early as October. Peres was invited to that country when he met with a ranking Soviet trade delegation in New York at the end of last week. The head of the delegation, Genrikh Borovik, said that he would urge his government to extend an official invitation.

Opening of PRC Tourism Office Announced

TA2409204289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Israel will probably get a favorable response if it requests the opening of a tourism office in Beijing, (Teng Shen Qi), head of the Chinese office for international tourism services, said today in Tel Aviv. The representation includes seven staffers and will soon open a permanent office in Tel Aviv.

In a news conference held today, the head of the Chinese representation said that the purpose of his office is to promote friendship and understanding with the Chinese people, to spread information, and to encourage Israeli tourism to China. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Ergaz reports:

[Begin videorecording] [Ergaz] This time it is not just a single Chinese representative working out of an Israeli tourism firm as a liaison to a European office. This time it is a delegation of seven workers of the Chinese office for international tourism services. This time it is a delegation appearing in broad daylight at a news conference in Tel Aviv to announce the opening of a permanent representation in Israel. The delegation is headed by (Teng Shen Qi), who emphasized that the Chinese office is not a governmental body. Nevertheless, it is clear that the body he represents handles about one-third of Western tourism to China. So far, it has seven branches in tourism-oriented Western countries—in Paris, London, Hong Kong, Sydney, and the United States—which will now be joined by Tel Aviv. And, this could only occur with permission from the top.

I asked the head of the delegation to discuss the extent to which the bloody events in Tiananmen Square in Beijing have affected tourism to China.

[(Teng Shen Qi), speaking in Chinese, which an interpreter translates into English] It is stable in Beijing right now, and it is secure enough to visit China. And tourism will surely revive in the future. I can also say to you that the travel services in Israel are right now organizing tourists to China, especially at present; and they are doing it now.

[Ergaz] The five Chinese delegates, who were very relaxed when posing for photographs on the stairs of Journalists House, brought along a private cook and a chauffeur, both Chinese.

Hundreds of Israeli tourists went to China last year, and had it not been for the events in Beijing, thousands would have gone there because there was an enormous demand. Is this a Chinese tourism delegation, or perhaps the beginning of a diplomatic delegation? [end videorecording]

Central Bank Report Details Recommendations

TA2509103089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Sep 89 p 5

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno yesterday came out strongly against any devaluation of the shekel in the next few months, saying such a move was unnecessary and would only worsen inflation.

Bruno indicated that he supported stabilizing the rate of exchange for a long period of time, perhaps by pegging the shekel to a foreign currency or to the European Monetary System. He cited the examples of Italy and France, which he said had successfully used a currency peg to control inflation.

Bruno said there was no need for a devaluation because the country's balance of payments situation was satisfactory and would remain so next year.

The governor made his remarks after the release of the central bank's "Report on the Rise of the Means of Payments," a periodic document containing his economic policy recommendations.

In a separate report on the state of the economy released yesterday, the central bank said the trade deficit dropped to $40 million in July and August, compared with $130 million in the second quarter and $160 million in the January-March period.

The governor strongly warned against the rise in the government's fiscal deficit, which reached 11 percent of the gross domestic product in July and August, compared with 8.5 percent in the second quarter of the year. He said a large drop in tax revenues caused by the slowdown in economic activity was responsible for much of the increase in the deficit.

But Bruno added that there also had been an increase in government expenditures in some areas that had not been offset by cuts in others. He complained that even when decisions to make cuts were made by the cabinet, they were not implemented. He cited as an example the decision to trim NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 150 million from non-military expenditures to finance an increase in the defence budget.

Bruno warned that the employment situation would not improve quickly. He said the positive effects of economic recovery were being offset by an increase in industrial efficiency, and employment would not rise faster than the expansion of the labour force.

At the same time, Bruno once again warned against allowing increases in real wages. The central bank's report said that in recent months there had been a consistent drop in unit labour costs, which was reflected in rising exports.

The report stressed that despite the economic slowdown, the prices of services were rising faster than the prices of manufactured goods and were not lagging behind the average rate of inflation.

The report also called on the government to refrain from raising the prices of the goods and services it supplies by more than the rate of inflation. It said such hikes were partly responsible for the failure of the inflation rate to drop to targeted levels. Rapid increases in the prices of government-supplied goods and services raised inflationary expectations, the governor said.

Jordanian Dinar Suffers Drop Against Shekel

TA2409103489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Sep 89 p 7

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] The Jordanian dinar sustained another setback over the last few days, after a long attempt to recover from the beating it suffered several months ago. Many residents in the territories were dumping dinars over the weekend, and its rate dropped from 3.25 to 2.8 Israeli shekels.

Moneychangers in East Jerusalem yesterday predicted that the drop in the dinar would continue until official Jordanian elements once more declare that they are taking actions to revive the Jordanian economy.

Jordan has lately been subsisting solely on the basis of donations and grants given by other Arab states, chiefly Saudi Arabia, which has transferred over $250 million to Jordan.

PLO Supporter To Head Arab Bar Association

TA2509080489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Attorney 'Ali Ghazlan from Jabal al-Mukabar in East Jerusalem was elected head of the Arab Bar Association in Judaea and Samaria today. His faction had won 8 of the 11 slots in the association in last week's elections. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Ghazlan's faction is believed to support the PLO's mainstream.

IDF Steps Up Patrols Along Border With Jordan

TA2809055289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has stepped up its patrols of the Jordanian border as the holidays approach. The head of Central Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, yesterday conferred with local council heads in the Jordan and Bet She'an Valleys and described the extra efforts being used to prevent infiltrations from Jordan. A Voice of Israel reporter says the new measures will remain in effect after the holidays.

Shomron Says IDF Restraint Foils Uprising

TA2709174489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said today that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has achieved much in all areas, while laboring under conditions harder than ever before. Despite these constraints, the army has managed to continue training, secure Israel's borders, and combat the intifadah [uprising].

A ceremonial toast to mark the Jewish New Year, with the participation of senior IDF Central Command officers, was the occasion Lieutenant General Dan Shomron chose to state his views. The chief of staff said that the army is operating properly, with control and reserve, thus foiling any attempts to portray the IDF as an army that kills innocent people—a picture many are so keen to paint. Thanks to this restraint, the intifadah has achieved nothing.

[Begin Shomron recording] This intifadah has failed to turn its violence and disturbances into any practical achievement in the field, thanks to the correct and controlled operating procedures of the IDF, which enjoys the cooperation of the local residents. [end recording]

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the head of the Central Command, expressed the hope that Israel would affix a prohibitive price to the uprising and restore security to the territories, creating a situation that would enable decisionmaking. Gen Mordekhay said we have made great progress this year. Although the task is not yet over, Mordekhay asserted that we would yet achieve this goal.

While clinking their glasses together, the Central Command officers voiced the hope that all these wishes would indeed come true.

Human Rights Center Issues Data on Demolitions

TA2709123189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] At least 330 houses in the territories have been destroyed or totally sealed by security forces since the beginning of the uprising. The figure was released at a press conference given this morning in Jerusalem by Betzelem, the information center for human rights in the territories. The organization claims that house demolition is much more common in Judaea and Samaria than in the Gaza Strip. More details from Mark Weiss:

The law on house demolition was introduced by the British in the Mandate and has remained in force. The High Court of Justice has ruled that the measure is legal, although opponents say it contravenes the Geneva Convention. According to figures presented by Betzelem today, at least 330 houses have been destroyed or totally sealed from the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] until the end of July this year. Betzelem found that the demolition of homes is much more widespread in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the homes of stone-throwing suspects and alleged inciters have been destroyed, but in Gaza suspicion of murder or endangering lives is needed as a pretext. The decision on demolition is apparently quite arbitrary and left to the discretion of commanders in the field. [passage omitted]

Today's report also criticizes the discrepancy between the figures on house demolitions put out by the Ministry of Defense and the army spokesman. Many adjoining houses have been damaged during demolitions, and compensation figures paid by the Ministry of Defense were criticized as inadequate.

Today's report has been sent to the ministers and to the army chief of staff. There has been no reply as yet from the Defense Minister's Office, which was sent a copy of the report 3 weeks ago.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 27 September carries a report by Arye Gus on the army spokesman's reaction to Betzelem's arguments. Gus says that "the law that applies in the territories permits military commanders to order the demolition or boarding up of houses belonging to people who attack soldiers or civilians either with guns or with other lethal weapons, and those belonging to individuals who either directly participated in crimes of violence or intimidation or were accessories to such felonies. Nonetheless, military commanders employ this measure only when one of the people who reside in the house is charged with committing serious crimes resulting in serious bodily harm, fatal injury, or other serious criminal offenses." All such decisions are adopted only after "careful and scrupulous scrutiny at the highest levels," the army spokesman emphasized, adding that "in principle, this measure is used in very limited, select instances and only as a reaction to extremely severe cases. It is never employed as a sweeping routine measure."

Gus reports that the army spokesman also stressed that "apart from cases where it is operationally necessary to demolish the house, residents have the option of appealing the move, whether to the military commander or, if nothing else works, to the High Court of Justice." The scope of violence in the uprising and the danger to human lives have "compelled the army to extend the use of this measure, although the principles for applying it have not been altered." Security sources disagree with Betzelem's contention that "demolitions do not deter," maintaining that "they can help the army handle the phenomenon of violence in the territories."]

Incidents of Unrest Reported in Territories

TA2709151089

[Editorial Report] Israeli newspapers on 27 September provide reports on various incidents of unrest occurring in the occupied territories on 26 September. Tel Aviv

YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, in a page 2 report by David Regev, Roni Shaqed, and Tzvi Singer, says that "a firebomb was hurled yesterday at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol at the Khan Yunus refugee camp vegetable market. The firebomb ignited on the road. Twenty people were detained.

"Seven Gaza Strip residents were slightly wounded by IDF gunfire during disturbances in the al-Nusayrat and Rafah refugee camps. Military sources said they know nothing about casualties.

"There were many disturbances in East Jerusalem yesterday. A box of burning contact glue was thrown at a Jewish religious seminary. There were no casualties, but the entrance was damaged. At Nahal Qadum, masked men hurled stones and bottles at a police force, which used tear gas and rubber bullets against the rioters."

The report said five residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp were detained yesterday by administrative order until the end of 1989 after being suspected of "membership in hostile organizations."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 27 September in a page 2 report by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, and Yoram Levi, reports that "three houses were demolished yesterday in the village of Buruqin in Samaria, and three in the village of Husan, because they were built without licenses. The villages were closed off during the demolitions."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page 2 report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin reports that "the head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration yesterday met with public figures in the area. The IDF Southern Command's spokesman reported that a doctor at the Gaza lockup refused to accept two wounded Gazan youths. The spokesman said one youth apparently had been beaten up, while the other suffered from a gunshot wound."

Palestinian Casualties Reported

TA2709141789 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 27 Sep 89 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Friday, 22 September, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 487 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by IDF gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian casualties on 25 September 1989 stood at 618.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 752 fatalities according to the following breakdown: —539 by soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;
—81 by asphyxation;
—52 from beatings and electrocution;
—80 from other causes.

Curfew in Tall al-Sultan

TA2709120089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] This morning the army imposed a curfew on the Tall al-Sultan quarter of Rafah in the Gaza Strip. An army source told the Voice of Israel that the curfew was imposed for operational purposes. Another report from the Gaza Strip says that two residents were detained last night at the Gane Tal crossroads in the Qatif settlement region. Training fatigues and masks used by the so-called shock committees, the strike forces, or the popular committees of the uprising, were found in the car in which they were traveling.

Also in the Qatif area, serious damage was caused to a number of hothouses at Moshav Gan Or. The police are investigating.

Stones were thrown this morning in the Shu'fat neighborhood north of Jerusalem at a No. 25 Egged bus. Two passengers were slightly hurt and had to be treated at a hospital. The bus was equipped with protective shields, but the stones penetrated through an open window.

Near Binyamina in the coastal area, a passenger vehicle came under a hail of stones today. Two windows were smashed; no one was hurt.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 27 September adds: "Students from the (Sawahrah) school in the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood east of Jerusalem rioted again this morning, hurling stones at a Border Police patrol. Five of them were detained." The report adds that "after yesterday's riot, teachers in the school were warned and called upon to make sure that disturbances do not recur." Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 27 September reports that "the homes of two people accused of membership in the strike forces were sealed off in the Gaza Strip."]

6 Wounded Near Nabulus

TA2709203589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Five youths were wounded this afternoon at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that masked men hurled stones and instigated youths to riot. A 14-year-old youth sustained medium wounds in Nabulus' casbah after being shot by a soldier.

Confiscated Magnetic Cards Returned to Laborers

TA2709141489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by David Regev]

[Text] The rejectionist organizations which confiscated the magnetic cards from Gaza residents in the past few months have begun returning them to the laborers. A

military source reports that in the past few days hundreds of these cards have been returned to their owners.

Arab sources report that during the past few months masked individuals employed violent measures to confiscate more than 10,000 magnetic identity cards. In the past few weeks, however, because of growing economic distress, special committees have been formed in the neighborhoods to forcefully prevent the masked individuals from seizing their cards.

Arab sources report that following mounting opposition by Gaza laborers, as well as pressure applied by the security forces, the rejectionist organizations concluded that confiscating the magnetic cards ultimately had an adverse effect on the organizations themselves, as well as on the well-being of the inhabitants.

A military source reports that unidentified individuals have come to the residents' homes to return the cards to their owners. Graffiti urging the inhabitants to come to mosques to get their cards also has been painted in the neighborhoods. So far, cards have been returned in the Shaja'iyah and al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhoods of Gaza, as well as in some refugee camps throughout the Strip.

More Gazans Registering for Work Permits

TA2709205889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Since the beginning of the month there has been an increase in the number of requests submitted by residents of the Gaza Strip to renew work permits in Israel.

Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, was informed of this today while visiting employment bureaus in various Gaza Strip towns and factories in southern Israel.

Among other details, it was reported that an additional 200 laborers register daily for work in Israel at the employment bureaus in the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. According to the employment bureaus' figures, there are 2,650 workplaces and factories throughout Israel that employ five or more laborers from the Gaza Strip.

U.S. Support for Egyptian 10-Point Plan Urged

JN2809080189 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Fever of Israeli Extremism and the Urgent U.S. Responsibility"]

[Text] It did not come as a surprise to any observers, either inside or outside the Middle East, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared his total rejection of the Egyptian 10-point plan, which came to end the existing stalemate and contribute toward pushing the peace efforts a small step forward.

Yitzhaq Shamir, who continues his extremism and arrogance, did not abstain from calling the 10-point plan a maneuver aimed to give up a part of what he calls the land of Israel to the PLO, entrench the intifadah's [uprising] political victory, and impose capitulation on Israel.

With this extremely inflexible political mentality, Shamir rejected the latest Arab initiative which, if accepted, could have brought the Palestinians and Israelis face-to-face within the framework of direct negotiations, which may pave the way for elections in the occupied Palestinian teritories and achieve long-awaited progress.

Undoubtedly, the Israeli rejection of the Egyptian 10-point initiative will not constitute the final say in the destiny of this initiative if the United States of America declares its full political support for the 10-point plan and takes tangible practical steps on the basis of this support desired from President George Bush's administration.

The United States, which previously expressed some support for the Egyptian initiative, should reconsider its public support for Israel's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories after Shamir declared his refusal to change his stubborn position. It should also reconsider its support after everyone became aware of Israel's failure to find a Palestinian partner other than the PLO. Furthermore, it must reconsider its support especially since there is still room for an effective U.S. move capable of stopping the fever of the increasing Israeli extremism, and, consequently, contributing toward achieving tangible progress on the way to achieving peace in this part of the world.

Editorial Applauds Cooperation With Soviets

JN2809092489 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "New Horizons for Cooperation Between Amman and Moscow"]

[Text] The trade and technical protocol signed recently between Jordan and the Soviet Union has opened broad areas for economic cooperation between the two countries. One hundred Jordanian commodities will be exported to the Soviet Union next year.

In addition to this field that became available for a number of Jordanian commodities, Jordan will hold a Jordanian Products Week in the Soviet Union and open a Jordanian trade center in the Soviet capital.

The Jordanian and Soviet sides also agreed to open two factories to produce wood and fertilizers in Jordan with Soviet finance. The Soviet Union will import all the products of the wood factory and half the products of the fertilizer factory and market the other half in East Europe.

Such a protocol, which opened broad horizons for Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in the economic, trade, and technical fields, is an example of dealings between the countries of the North and South, and a characteristic which distinguishes the Soviet Union in helping Third World countries.

Certainly, such economic measures will reflect positively on the whole situation in Jordan. Officials in the public and private sectors attach great importance to the details of the protocol signed with the Soviet Union, in view of its excellent features which will reflect positively on the Jordanian economy and increase the volume of Jordanian exports to the Soviet Union.

The relations of friendship tying Jordan—country and people—with the Soviet Union and its successive governments, particularly under Soviet leader Gorbachev, are relations of mutual respect and trust from which the need to build international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect proceed.

We hope that the relations of joint cooperation between ourselves and the friendly USSR will become stronger and more established in order to benefit the peoples of the two countries and achieve their common human desire to build a world in which peace, security, and prosperity prevail.

'Awn Says Initiative Deadlocked, Pullout Needed

NC2709110789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] At noon today REUTER quoted Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn as saying that the Arab initiative has reached a deadlock. He added that he will tell the deputies during his meeting with them this afternoon that a timetable for Syrian withdrawal is the most important issue and its discussion must precede any reform plans and any national consensus. In this context, Gen 'Awn referred to Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's statement that there will be no withdrawal before reforms are carried out.

REUTER also cited Christian political sources as saying that the Christian Lebanese deputies will attend the national reconciliation meeting in Saudi Arabia but they will insist on discussing a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces before discussing political reform. The agency said it expects a statement on this matter will be issued following the parliamentary meeting that will be held at B'abda palace this afternoon.

'Awn Criticizes Syrian Vice President's Remarks

NC2709120689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Commenting on the statement by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam that no soldier will abandon his position before national reconciliation is achieved and a national unity government formed, General 'Awn said today that the Syrian vice president killed the Arab initiative before it got to Al-Ta'if. The prime minister added: Mr Khaddam says that we do not have the right to discuss a Syrian withdrawal. I, for my part, do not understand why he has the right to interfere. We will not be sheep for the wolf from now on.

'Awn declared: When I accepted the cease-fire, I did not discuss details, not because I feared consequences from the Syrian forces but merely because of the international view of this initiative. Speaking to foreign reporters, 'Awn continued: The entire world thought this initiative was something positive and so I could not tell anyone that it was not positive because the Syrians were blocking the path.

'Awn Expects Nothing Positive From Al-Ta'if Meet

NC2709144589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpt] At a news conference with representatives of the foreign media, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn declared that he does not expect anything positive from the Al-Ta'if meeting, which has no constitutional power. He said: We will not surrender through politics what we maintained through the gun, as this would amount to treason. National sovereignty is not a commodity to be traded and everyone must know that. He added: No one can be allowed to forget the blood of our martyrs and people. We insist on the liberation of every inch of our territory.

He stressed that no reforms can be made under occupation and that nothing is more important than a Syrian withdrawal. He added: What was rejected in September 1988 will not be accepted in Septmber 1989. He pointed out that there will be no reforms or presidential elections under occupation. [passage omitted]

'Awn, Deputies Agree on Al-Ta'if Meeting

NC2709213089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces, reforms, and elections were issues discussed at a meeting between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and 24 deputies, who arrrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda at 1700 today. They left the palace at 2015. It has been learned that agreement has been reached on these issues. During the meeting, Gen 'Awn reviewed the points outlined in the [Arab Committee] document, particularly those that constitute pitfalls. The conferees reached a unified stand and they emphasized that the situation is delicate.

Although the conferees did not issue a statement, Deputy Ilyas al-Hirawi said that the meeting was extremely secret. He added that there was unanimous agreement to go to Al-Ta'if.

Deputy Albert Mukhaybir stressed that the stand is united but that he will not leave for Al-Ta'if and that he wishes his fellow deputies success.

Lakhdar Ibrahimi Praises Syrian Role in Lebanon

JN2709090889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representative of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, has praised the Syrian Arab Forces' role in Lebanon. He said: Syria has been in Lebanon for a long time, and its forces are effective, influential, and play a constructive and useful role. We will seek its help at any time and whenever necessary, whether on the military or on the political levels. Ibrahimi also expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the implementation of the plan that was included in the Jeddah statement on the cease-fire in Lebanon.

In an interview with Syrian Television last night, he said: All parties have responded to the plan. Several measures have been taken to implement this plan. Ibrahimi stressed that all parties are cooperating with the security committee, and that it is clear that these parties are ready and desire to help facilitate matters and alleviate the burdens and sufferings of the Lebanese citizen. He pointed out that matters are currently proceeding in a satisfactory manner despite some problems. He explained that this crisis is long and complicated and

needs great patience and efforts. He said that all the problems that emerge every now and then are secondary or even fabricated because there are several interrelated parties involved.

On the political side, Ibrahimi stressed that the security part of the plan should be taken care of quickly, because starting political action will entrench the security situation. He pointed out that any delay or procrastination in political action will continue to threaten the security situation. He said, therefore, that it is necessary to abide by the timetable in this regard.

Ibrahimi expressed his happiness because it was possible to announce the meeting for the Lebanese deputies on the proposed date. He said he hoped that the deputies' meeting would be on the level of the Lebanese crisis that has been continuing for 15 years. He urged the deputies to play a major role through searching for reasonable solutions politically and ideologically. He said that the deputies' meeting will be held in Al-Ta'if and not in Jeddah, and that arrangements have been made to enable the deputies to arrive at the venue of the meeting. He said that a large number of deputies will attend, while only a small number will not attend, due to health or other reasons.

He added: This attempt to tackle the Lebanese crisis has gained unprecedented Arab and international unanimity and support. He said that this is an encouraging stand toward our approach.

Regarding the stand toward the Israeli occupation and the need to finally defuse the situation in Lebanon, Ibrahimi said: The Israeli dimension is not at all outside the framework of our considerations as a committee. This dimension of the Lebanese crisis must be discussed, or otherwise the Lebanese crisis will not be resolved, because all its aspects are interrelated, and it is impossible to resolve one part of the Lebanese crisis and leave the other part unresolved. He added: There is one thing that no one can argue about, namely that the destruction of our Arab capital, Beirut, will not bring about an Israeli withdrawal, and the destruction of this capital will never help move the Israelis. Consequently, he who wants an Israeli evacuation will not seek to destroy Beirut.

Ibrahimi expressed the need to deal with the Israeli issue on the regional and the international resolutions levels. He said: The unity of the Arabs, including the Lebanese inside and outside Lebanon, will contribute to responding to their legitimate demand regarding the need to liberate the Lebanese homeland from the Israeli occupier. He stressed that a solution to the Lebanese crisis is possible and attainable. He affirmed that the possibilities for resolving this crisis exist, and that all those who have good intentions, of whom there are many, should cooperate to fight anyone who has bad intentions or who attempts to escalate the situation or hamper the solution.

Regarding the reflection of resolving the Lebanese crisis on the Palestine question, Ibrahimi stressed that resolving any Arab issue will reflect positively on the Palestine question.

Security Committee on Crossing, Passports

NC2709105789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The security committee met under the chairmanship of Lakhdar Ibrahimi today and decided to keep the museum crossing open all day and night. It also decided that all Lebanese passports, regardless of where they were issued, will be deemed valid at Beirut International Airport.

The committee, which met for 2 hours starting at 1100 today, discussed ways of dealing with security violations. It also agreed that the bodies of the Progressive Socialist Party gunmen who died in the Suq al-Gharb battle will be returned to their families through the Red Cross.

Hizballah Urges Vengeance for Saudi Executions

NC2709163689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Political commentary: "Vengeance"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The ruler of Al-Hijaz has massacred 17 [as heard] enlightened souls to please those who seek vengeance against Muslims everywhere. In his constant quest to defend his throne and appease his benefactors, he must give them sacrifices to make them happy. When the rulers and princes of Al-Hijaz were trembling as a result of the growing Islamic awakening, enlightening minds and hearts, and when the Muslims who had numerous grievances against America and its satellites had obtained some retribution against this era's criminals, the Al-Hijaz rulers were enraged because the masters were dismayed. They perpetrated the most heinous crime of our age, namely the great and terrible massacre of the Iranian Muslim pilgrims in holy Mecca. The Americans rewarded the rulers of Al-Hijaz by sending their war fleets to defend the apostate Wahhabite regime and some of its wings in the Gulf.

Today the abominable crime by Al-Hijaz' Wahhabis against 17 Kuwaiti Muslims must surely have a certain American price. Some of the conditions of this price are still relatively unknown. Nevertheless, available information indicates conflict among the factions in Al-Hijaz. Every faction is attempting to perpetrate whatever crimes and massacres it can against the true enemies of the United States in order to obtain American pleasure and receive the green light from the U.S. intelligence service to seize power from the current ruler in Al-Hijaz, either peacefully or militarily.

The rulers of Al-Hijaz wanted to attain more than one political aim through their recent crime. Fahd, who is

suffering from an unknown but grave illness, might have carried out this bloody act in order to guarantee his continued rule, even during his illness, or to pave the way for the accession to power of a favored member of the royal family such as Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz so that he would become king after a possible concession by the current crown prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Perhaps the second aim that the rulers of Al-Hijaz wanted to achieve was to twist the aims of the Muslim revivalists in the region, to intimidate them, and dissuade them from any act threatening the ruling authorities. Furthermore, this crime is a message, to anyone who is concerned, that the Arab region, which is currently controlled by the American master, is divided into military and security zones.

The Zionist entity is responsible for an important zone and attacks the Arab and Islamic liberation forces that are opposed to every colonialist and arrogant influence. Israel exercises hegemony over the Arab east. It appears that the Al-Hijaz regime has been entrusted with the task of undermining the Islamic revival in the Gulf. Thus the region is currently under a frenzied U.S. onslaught against honorable and sincere forces.

The recent crime of Al-Hijaz' rulers is part of a plan of global arrogance that is being implemented in the region, evident in the political and economic pressures on the Islamic revolution in Iran, the attempts to suppress the Islamic intifadah [uprising] in occupied Palestine, the plans to subdue Lebanon, and the massacres that the Sa'ud family rulers perpetrate against the Muslims in eastern Al-Hijaz and other Gulf countries.

Vis-a-vis this foul recklessness shown by Al-Hijaz rulers to innocent people and the frightful silence which the Kuwaiti rulers persist in maintaining, it is imperative for a Muslim cry to be raised everywhere to express condemnation and consternation at such a crime because it will not be the last. Unless the blood of these pious martyrs is avenged, the result of such silence will inevitably be to prevent Muslims from performing the required hajj duty. Hence, condemnation alone is not enough. The aim must be to avenge the blood of Islam's martyrs who have been martyred by the Sa'ud family rulers regardless of the circumstances. So persevere patiently; for the end is for those who are righteous. [Koranic verse]

Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Expresses Optimism

NC2709103389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this morning discussed the latest developments with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha. Following the meeting, Kolotusha said: The meeting with his excellency the prime minister was for the purpose of exchanging views on conditions in Lebanon.

Asked about his expectations for the meeting of Lebanese deputies in Al-Ta'if, Kolotusha said: I hope that the deputies will find common ground, because much today depends on the deputies.

Asked about the Soviet role, Kolotusha pointed out: We want stability, peace, and a solution in Lebanon within the limits of what is possible. We are trying to encourage the achievement of such a solution and peace. I am still optimistic.

Junblatt on Arab Committee, Reforms, U.S.

JN2309111689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Sep 89 pp 1, 24

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, has said that the national reconciliation document prepared by the tripartite committee on Lebanon does not meet all his wishes. He said his optimism regarding the committee's statement is confined to the fact that the statement differs from previous resolutions adopted by the committee and also to the fact that the committee enjoys Arab and international support.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y during a short visit to Amman, Junblatt said: "The national reconciliation plan proposed by the tripartite committee is useful if a speedy process of national reconciliation is achieved, because entering into a new sectarian settlement is extremely dangerous."

He linked the continuation of the tripartite committee's activity to the committee's direct association with the Arab and international commitments it makes. "For the committee to continue its activity, it is not sufficient to enjoy the support of the superpowers and the Arab countries; it has to obtain Arab and international commitments to stop providing Michel 'Awn with arms," he said.

Junblatt wondered about the readiness of Lebanon's Christians for reforms in case the parties to Lebanon's conflict agree on a cease-fire and on control over arms and ammunition supplies. He said: "We, certainly, are not going to talk with 'Awn, and we wonder if Patriarch Sfayr is ready to make concessions, and whether Samir Ja'ja' supports unified Lebanon while advocating federation and a multi-society system."

In Junblatt's opinion, dialogue associated with a cease-fire and a halt to assistance provided to Michel 'Awn constitute the path to political reforms.

He said the notion of sovereignty, as mentioned in the national reconciliation document prepared by the tripartite committee, must recognize that Lebanon is an independent country. If it were anti-Arab, "then we prefer it to be annexed to Syria."

Asked about the withdrawal of Syrian, Iranian, and Israeli forces from Lebanon, he stressed the need for political reforms before the Syrian withdrawal. He said: "Political reforms are not incompatible with the Syrian presence. We believe that after the launching of a national unity government in Lebanon, we can ask Syria to withdraw. The force now present in Lebanon is Israel, which we consider an enemy state and an occupier. We view Syria as an Arab country linked to the Lebanese people with very old historical, economic, and social relations. What is called (the independent Lebanese entity) is only a modern term; the presence of Syria is a guarantee of Lebanon's Arabism."

Asked whether Israel is hindering the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and whether Syria will withdraw from Lebanon once Israel withdraws, Junblatt said: "Israel's withdrawal is a a basic and strategic element of the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. But there are still other elements in Lebanon that should be in line with general Syrian interests."

He called for serious international pressure to force Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon and to implement Security Council resolutions on Lebanon. He said there is no extensive Iranian presence in Lebanon, describing this presence as "Iranian influence". "We do not think that the Iranian presence constitutes the greater danger in Lebanon," he said.

He added: "In Lebanon we have not yet decided to enter into a peaceful settlement with Israel, nor have we used various slogans such as Camp David, land-for-peace, or the resolutions of the national council of the Fatah movement. The utmost [as published] we are demanding is the return to the borders of the 1948 truce."

Asked if what is required from Lebanon is a government under Syria, Junblatt said that a government is required that cares for Syrian interests in Lebanon. He repeated that his concept of Arabism is a Syrian one. He said that political reforms must be achieved through equality among all parties in Lebanon. He noted that the powers of the president of the republic and the major positions confined to the Maronite sect since 1920 cannot continue. He said: "We want a new electoral system on a proportional basis and on the basis that Lebanon is one electorate representing all parties because Lebanon cannot continue as long as it is sectarian."

On the mission of the present security committee in Lebanon, Junblatt expressed fear that its efforts will produce no more than a truce. He affirmed that Lakhdar Ibrahimi's efforts are useless. He said: "We should return to the old security committee, which must be five-sided." He added: "If 'Awn continues with his proposals on the war of liberation, neither the security committee nor any other committee will stop the fighting in Lebanon."

He touched on the role of the Western countries, particularly the United States, the USSR, and France in supporting the efforts of the tripartite committee, reminding the USSR that the cease-fire might mean nothing because some countries do not respect their agreements, as in Afghanistan. He affirmed that the situation in Lebanon is more difficult than that of Afghanistan.

On the Arab and international consensus that the solution to the Lebanese conflict must be an Arab solution, taking into consideration his reservations on the tripartite and security committees, Junblatt said: "We are against the internationalization of the crisis and the repetition of what happened during Amin al-Jumayyil's era. We want the Arab solution provided that it is not hostile to Syria and the nationalists in Lebanon. We want the Arabs to freeze the negative elements and neutralize the anti-Syria axis."

He noted that Lebanon's depth is Syria. He said: Can Canada adopt a policy that is hostile to the United States and can Finland adopt a policy hostile to the USSR?

On his relations with Salim al-Huss, he said: "We have some comments to make on Al-Huss and we support him in some of his approaches. We will support him more if we meet with him. We hope that he will gather the nationalist government and keep the differences that are publicized in the newspapers inside the cabinet."

On the other hand, he said that the U.S. Administration withdrew its mission from Beirut to Cyprus because the Unites States was disappointed by 'Awn and his policy after it encouraged him to hold a dialogue at a certain stage. He said: "The United States' withdrawal from Lebanon is tactical. The American diplomatic mission was withdrawn only because of security considerations. This does not mean that the equation has changed. We still support the army in Lebanon, but not in the American way."

On recent statements made by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon McCarthy, he only said: "His statements might be positive signs."

On the Egyptian 10-point proposal on elections in the occupied Arab territory, Junblatt said that Mubarak's plan is an embellishment of the Shamir plan, which is unacceptable to some Arabs. He added that attempts to link the solution to the Palestine question with a solution to the Lebanese problem are not based on reality.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Interviewed

PM2709101689 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 25

[Interview with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by unidentified interviewer; date, place not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] The Arab tripartite committee has devoted great practical interest to the role of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

[Al-Husayni] Yes. Because something of that sort [as published] can only be achieved via the Chamber of Deputies.

[Interviewer] For the past 15 years the Chamber of Deputies has been rejuvenating itself, but despite the documents on accord that it has issued, it has failed to make serious efforts to reach an agreement. Is it capable of doing this?

[Al-Husayni] I have never claimed that the Chamber of Deputies can achieve accord on its own. The numerous foreign and internal forces and interventions represent international and Arab efforts and support to extricate Lebanon from this predicament. Lebanon has paid the price of the Arab-Israeli conflict on its own as a result of the strong armed Palestinian presence in its territory. Neither the Chamber of Deputies nor the Lebanese state has managed to reduce the damage. It would be naive to say that the Chamber of Deputies can resolve the crisis on its own, without international and Arab backing.

[Interviewer] If you were invited to hold a meeting abroad to draw up an accord document and elect a president, would the Chamber of Deputies be able to take such a step?

[Al-Husayni] There are no differences at all among the deputies. The deputies generally accept the fact that it is necessary to draw up a document on constitutional reforms and the election of a president of national accord.

[Interviewer] On 23 September the Chamber of Deputies became two chambers: one in the western area [of Beirut] under you, and the other in the eastern area under Maronite Patriarch Butrus Sfayr. This raises the question of the future of the main legislative authority in Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] This is the first time I have heard that point made. The Chamber of Deputies has proved that no power could divide it. The deputies' solidarity is very clear. Such unity reflects the Lebanese people's commitment to their unity. We are in constant contact with each another, despite the fact that General 'Awn, at both the security and military levels, has obstructed the prospect of a meeting being held by the deputies, whether in the main building in Sahat al-Najmah or in the temporary building in the Mansur Palace.

[Interviewer] It is known in political circles that you have good relations with Patriarch Sfayr and Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah. Recently Sfayr called for equality among the Lebanese by reducing the president's powers and transferring them to the Council of Ministers. Whereas Sa'adah opposed that new line, insisting on the military withdrawals issue first, that is, before broaching the details of reform.

[Al-Husayni] My relations with Patriarch Sfayr, colleague George Sa'adah, and others is good. We do not differ over many things, despite some people's attempts to fabricate certain problems. I do not believe in any attempt to discuss the sects' shares. We want to establish a just and strong state, and if that necessitates an expansion of the president's powers, we have no objection. I am among those not opposed to the establishment of presidential rule in Lebanon whereby the president has all the executive powers. But that requires the president's election by the people. Anyone who thinks that the talks between me and Patriarch Sfayr have something to do with that is wrong. We transcend whatever stirs up sensitivities and chauvinism and work to create an overview that will make it possible to extricate Lebanon from its predicament. Our decision not to inform the public of the details of the present talks between Sfayr and me is attributable to our strong desire to make the endeavors succeed and to prevent those who do not want a solution from exploiting any opportunity to obstruct it.

[Interviewer] What do you expect from the tripartite committee now?

[Al-Husayni] We have, of course, adhered, and still adhere, to the Arab committee and its work. But it is difficult to imagine a Lebanese-Syrian accord before the election of a new national president and the formation of a government of national accord. This, in the knowledge that there is no alternative to the lofty tripartite committee, which comprises figures and leaders with the great status and influence that will enable them to secure international backing for the solution. We have a duty to the high Arab committee: We must hasten to make inter-Lebanese and Lebanese-Syrian efforts facilitate its work. Our meetings with Patriarch Sfayr fall within that framework, not any other framework.

Israeli Forces Establish New Positions, Advance

NC2709101989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] People arriving from the occupied border strip have reported that the Israeli occupation forces have established two new positions in Tallusah, one overlooking Bani Hayyan and the other Hula. The two positions are connected by a private road. The Israeli forces also established fortifications and ramparts.

Israeli helicopters flew over Majdal Zun, Al-Mansuri, and Al-Hamra' bridge, dropping flares.

A joint force of the agent Antoine Lahd militia and the Israeli occupation forces, supported by two Merkava tanks, advanced from the 'Alman and Al-Shumariyah positions toward the forests and valleys of the Al-Litani River and raked the area.

Resistance fighters yesterday carried out an operation against Israeli and agent Lahd militia forces in the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah position, inflicting casualties.

'Fierce' Artillery Clashes East of Sidon

NC2709120189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Fierce clashes involving artillery have been occurring along the combat lines of Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Kafr Falus since 1200 today. Explosions can be clearly heard in Sidon and its suburbs. Guarded calm had prevailed along these lines early this morning, following intermittent skirmishes between the Popular Liberation Army and the agent Lahd militia.

Around 1030 today, Israeli occupation forces stormed Sribbin and detained four people, two of them from Yatar, and took them to an unknown destination.

An official Amal Movement source in the south has stated that Israeli gunboats approached the Al-Zahrani coast around midnight last night. Amal fighters fired on the boats, forcing them to retreat.

Afghanistan

Rebel Rocket Attacks Suspend Kabul Flights

BK2709124689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 27 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners fired at least 14 rockets at Kabul Airport on Wednesday [27 September], suspending flights for half a day, eyewitnesses said here.

There was no immediate official comment on the airport rocketing, the first since September 13 when two planes including a United Nations DC-9 were damaged and a Soviet-built transport destroyed in attacks.

The witnesses said there appeared to have been no damage in the Wednesday morning attack, and said they were unaware of casualties. Flight traffic resumed shortly after midday, they added.

The city of Kabul is rocketed daily, but the mujahidin guerrillas appear to select days on which they hit the airport from the hills surrounding the capital.

Kabul Rocketed; 'Fierce' Khowst, Qandahar Fighting

BK2809022789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched another rocket attack on Kabul airport. At least 27 rockets landed on areas around the airport and on a granary of the Kabul regime in the capital. A spokesman of the Kabul regime admitted that 11 rockets landed near the granary, killing one person and injuring four.

The spokesman said the mujahidin also attacked the outskirts of the eastern city of Jalalabad, and in reprisal the Kabul regime's forces resorted to heavy bombardment, rocket firing and aerial attacks.

There are also reports of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime's forces in Khowst and Qandahar.

Bombing of Kabul Averted, Explosives Seized

LD2109170389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security discovered and foiled a satanic conspiracy by the Pakistani-backed extremists in (Charasyab) Region in Kabul Province today.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that the warmongering extremists, on the basis of the evil policy of state terrorism of Pakistan and the United States, deployed three surface-to-surface missiles, five rockets, and three-kilogram explosives of the [words indistinct] for firing rockets and causing explosions around Kabul city, which were discovered and moved away with the cooperation of the people.

To prevent the launching of surface-to-surface missiles on the residential regions of Kabul city, the organs of the Ministry of State Security carried out mopping-up operations around Kabul city today.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that during these mopping-up operations five U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles which were deployed by the extremists in Lalandar region for firing at residential regions of Kabul city on the basis of the policy of state terrorism by the United States and Pakistan were discovered, defused, and taken away with the cooperation of the peace-loving local people.

Rebels Seize Security Post on Jalalabad Highway

BK2809081889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured a security post of Kabul regime troops on the Jalalabad highway. They also killed 30 Kabul regime troops and made 5 others captive during the operation.

Army Said to Successfully Defend Khowst

LD2809104189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 27, BAKHTAR—The detachments and contingents of the Armed Forces of the country stationed in Khowst Grand District not only defended their positions in Khowst in the past twenty-four hours, but they have inflicted heavy casualties upon the extremists as well, reports our military correspondent from Khowst.

The report adds that the extremists fired heavy missiles yesterday on the residential areas and security posts of Khowst City, as a result of which one personnel of the armed forces and five civilians including three children were killed and seven others wounded.

Thus the armed forces based in Khowst resorted to counterattacks killing 48 extremists and wounding 34 others.

According to another report, the armed extremists in collaboration with the Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis launched heavy missiles on a number of security posts in Samar Kheyl, Behsud and Sorkh Rud area, Nangarhar Province, as a result of which one personnel of the armed forces was martyred and eleven others injured.

In response to the attacks of the extremists, the armed forces resorted to retaliatory actions killing 23 extremists and wounding 28 others in Nangarhar.

The report adds that a number of arms and munitions of the enemy were destroyed in the said operations as well.

On the basis of another report, one personnel of the armed forces was killed and two others injured as a result of the attacks of the extremists on the security posts in Qandahar City yesterday.

Likewise, twenty extremists were crushed and five others got injuries due to the retaliatory attacks of the armed forces in Qandahar yesterday.

According to another report, the armed extremists fired surface to surface rockets on residential areas of Tarin Kowt City, center of Oruzgan Province, wounding one personnel of the armed forces and five civilians. The rockets caused material losses as well.

Hence, the armed forces stationed in Oruzgan Province resorted to retaliatory attacks killing ten extremists and injuring a number of others. A number of arms and munitions of the enemy were destroyed in the said operations as well.

Our military correspondent reports that organs of the Ministry of State Security carried out mopping-up operations around Kabul city today.

The report adds that two U.S. Sakar 20 [as received] surface-to-surface rockets which had been hidden in Deh Sabz District, Kabul Province, by the extremists were discovered and defused by the said organs. The rockets were due to be fired on residential areas of Kabul city.

Army Counterattacks Said To Kill 85 Rebels

LD2709131689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 26, BAKHTAR—In a counterattack carried out by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, 85 enemies were killed and 45 injured in Khowst grand districts in Paktia Province and in different parts of the provinces of Nangarhar, Parvan and Qandahar in the past 24 hours, reports a military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] quoting an authoritative military source. A large quantity of assorted arms and weapons were also captured in the period.

Meanwhile, the enemies fired heavy weapons in those provinces as a result of which ten persons including three military servicemen were killed and twenty-four injured. Included among the injured were six military servicemen and the rest were civilians.

During the operations, a large quantity of assorted light and heavy weapons of the foes fell at the hands of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

TEHRAN TIMES Interviews Mujahidin Leader

NC2609153589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 89 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] Harakat-e Islami Afghanistan official yesterday ruled out the possibility of a Zahir Shah return to his country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Taher Modarresi talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "He (Zahir Shah) is the person who caused all the unprecedented tragedies in our country."

Modarresi, who is the member of the Iran-based Harakat-e Islami Afghanistan said, "It all depends upon the people of our country, but I'm sure the people of Afghanistan have so much political sense that they know who is enemy and who friend."

The Hojjat ol-Eslam arrived in the TEHRAN TIMES office yesterday along with another Central Committee member Hashemi Esmatollahi who commenting on the subject said, "It's a plot of the United States. That country wants to bring a non-religious person into power just to show that the Afghan revolution is not Islamic and that the people want to bring the shah back."

Esmatollahi said, "People won't accept the shah. The people of Afghanistan want a religious personality to rule over them. In fact, the people want Islam should rule in their Islamic country."

Modarresi said that talks were held recently with the Pakistan based 7-Party Alliance for the reorganization of the interim government and "our brothers in Pakistan are ready to revise their original plans for future government of Afghanistan."

"Yes, they are ready to give a due share to the 8-Party Alliance based in Iran," Modarresi said. Harakat-e Islami of Afghanistan is one of the groups of the 8-Party Alliance. Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni is the leader of the Harakat-e Islami of Afghanistan.

When asked if the mujahidin victory was not in sight, he said this was because they have been divided. Since February the Soviet forces pulled out from Afghanistan and the situation in that landlocked country bettered since.

Modarresi admitted the fact but said, "What we need is a united move against the Kabul regime and we are hopeful that very soon we will achieve our objective."

He said that talks were held with the Pakistan based mujahidin group on various subjects including the reorganization of the interim government and unity among Shiites and Sunnis.

"Both sects whether they are Shiites or Sunnis must be given a due share in the over-all issues of Afghanistan," Modarresi said.

Esmatollahi said that there are proposals that "a negotiating table should be arranged with the participation of the mujahidin, Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

He ruled out the possibility of the inclusion of the Najibullah regime, or India and China in the negotiations.

Esmatollahi said that recently Afghanistan President Najibullah and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand sent letters to various commanders of the mujahidin for negotiations.

Similar letters were received by Ayatollah Mohseni.

"Nobody even bothered to answer to these letters," he said.

Esmatollahi said that Seyyed Hoseyn Anvari, commander of the Kabul sector, and Seyyed Ebrahim Shah Hoseyni in the Parwan Province received these letters from Najibullah and Keshtmand and during our visit there we saw those letters.

Modarresi said that he along with Esmatollahi entered Afghan territory which has been liberated by the mujahidin and stayed there for four months. They arrived here back in Iran just 20 days ago.

The members of the Central Committee of the Harakat went to Logar Province, southern Kabul, Maydan Province, Parwan Province and Bamyan Province, all in central Afghanistan and Kabul suburbs.

Commenting on the experiences of their visit, Modarresi said, "As far as military activities are concerned they are at a peak and both the Shiite and Sunni brothers are fighting side-by-side against the Kabul regime."

He recalled that Najibullah in Belgrade, where he went to attend the Ninth Summit of the Nonaligned Movement, claimed that a major convoy from Kabul to Qandahar succeeded in passing without any problem.

"It's wrong and we were there in those days. The people from 12 provinces came to see us during our stay there," he said.

Modarresi said that social problems in liberated areas are better and schools are open and religious education is being imparted to the Afghan students there.

He said that in the liberated areas there is enough supply of essential goods while prices may be a little over prices in Kabul and there is a scarcity of the essential goods with unusually high prices.

Commenting further on the mistakes of the 7-Party Alliance, Modarresi said, "One of the biggest mistakes was to start Jalalabad operation which failed."

"If the same operation had been started on the Kabul front victory would have been sure," Modarresi said.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam said that the exclusion of the 8-Party Alliance in the operation was another additional factor for Jalalabad not falling.

Bangladesh

Meeting Held With India on 'Border Crimes'

BK2509130389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to strengthen vigilance to check border crimes and exchange information on smuggling on the West Bengal-Bangladesh border. This was agreed at a 1-day border coordination conference between the two countries at Khulna [in Bangladesh] today. It has also been decided to hold regular border meetings between the security forces of the two countries to solve matters of an urgent nature.

Shanti Bahini Director Reportedly Surrenders

BK2509130989 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The (?national) director of the so-called Shanti Bahini [peace army] surrendered to the security forces at Khagrachari in Chittagong Hill Tracts Monday morning [25 September]. Mr Nihilkumar Taluqdar of Khagrachari surrendered with some valuable documents. He said he does not like the activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini, like persecution of tribals and nontribals, extortion of money from the poor, and burning houses of the people.

Eight-Party Alliance Formulates 'New Action Plan'

BK2509104589 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] The eight-party alliance is formulating a new strategy to infuse momentum in the "anti-autocracy" movement, report UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

A senior of the alliance told UNB on Monday they are engaged in working out a "new action plan" to turn the current movement into a mass upsurge to reach their goal—ouster of the present regime and free and fair elections.

The leader said they will exclude hartal [strike] from new strategy for the time being, as they thought frequent hartals lost its efficacy.

The alliance plans a series of programmes, including a "grand rally" in an attempt to whip up the movement to its climax by November next when they want to go for the "final stage" of the movement.

She said Awami League within the party forum has already discussed the holding of the grand rallies in the last week of October to put a massive demonstration in the capital against the government. The programmes will be further discussed and finalised in the next meeting of the alliance.

Meanwhile, the alliance has arranged a mass rally at the Central Shaheed Minar [Martyrs Memorial] in observance of the countrywide "anti-terrorism" day on Wednesday [20 September].

The alliance is expected to announce a fortnight-long programme including mass contact tours, rallies and demonstration to mobilise public opinion in favour of the movement against "autocracy, communalism and terrorism."

Communist Party Locked in 'Ideological Battle'

BK2809000289 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Communist Party of Bangladesh is locked in an ideological battle. The Soviet 'Perestroyka' and 'Glasnost' have shaken the regimented base of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

The demand for democratisation of the Communist Party in Bangladesh is louder than ever. Dissident CPB leaders are demanding more democracy within the party and their demand at the moment is not establishment of Socialism. The dissident leaders demanded change in party strategy stressing the need for development, democracy and social justice. In achieving these demands they asked the party leaders to shun the tailism [cooperation] with Awami League and to form broadbased left unity to intensify the anti-government movement.

Manzurul Ahsan Khan who has been expelled from the party for openly criticising the tailism with Awami League demanded more democracy within the party. The reply was his expulsion. One supporter of Manzurul Ahsan Khan termed this action as autocratic and said that the party coterie does not tolerate any criticism against them. He advised the party leaders favouring regimentation to take lessons from Eastern European countries particularly from Poland and Hungary.

The dissidents within CPB accused the party leadership of violating the Congress decision which emphasised pursuing independent party line and not tailism. The battle may intensify further with more reforms in Soviet Union and in other East European countries.

Manzurul Ahsan may come back to the party with the support of the majority who want democratisation of CPB. But it may take longer time. The present leadership is expected to work more closely with Awami League to dodge the dissidents. But CPB leadership also do not enjoy the confidence of the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina. The CPB leadership is likely to come under fire in its Central Committee meeting scheduled to be held in the middle of November. The Central Committee will take stock of the situation within party and country's politics. Manzurul Ahsan Khan will organise his group to voice his views in the Central Committee meeting in November. The feuding CPB leaders, therefore, will

have to devote more time in consolidating their respective position within party instead [of] intensifying the anti-government movement.

The dissident group of CPB may press for holding a Special Congress session of the party to discuss the present crisis and to set in Socialism under the cover of Perestroika and Glasnost.

Mr Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of CPB, when contacted said there could be simultaneous movement programme together with Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) if it could sever its relationship with Jamiati Islami. On question of revival of the Liaison Committee of the Eight-Party, Seven-Party and Five-Party Alliances, the CPB General Secretary said it was dependent on Awami League.

On the allegations brought against the CPB leadership by the dissident leaders, Mr Manik said, the Fourth Congress of the party also supported strengthening of movement programme with the Eight-Party Alliance. He hastened to add that CPB would try to pursue its independent line of politics. He did not rule out the possibility of more democracy within the party.

Mr Manzurul Ahsan Khan talking to THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER said CPB would now take some positive steps including gradual withdrawal from the influence of Awami League. Justifying his decision he said, "I have broken the party discipline as a matter of decision. Whatever statements I have made are true. Truth is more powerful than power itself".

Mr Mujahedul Islam Selim, another influential Secretariat leader, said changes in the party strategies are likely to be made befitting the demands for democratisation within the party. He was optimistic that the basic character of the party would not be lost. Mr Manik said the decision of Mr Manzural Ahsan Khan has greatly tarnished the image of his party. He did not rule out the possibility of revival of membership of Mr Khan, which, however, would be dicided at the Central Committee meeting on expiry of three-month suspension period.

India

Defense Ministry Adviser on 'Prithvi' Test Firing

BK2809020589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The scientific adviser to the defense minister, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, has expressed confidence that the [surface-to-surface] Prithvi [earth] missile system can be handed over to the Army as soon as possible. On his return to New Delhi from Sriharikota, Dr Arunachalam told our correspondent, Prabhakar Rao, that the Army has already placed orders for the Prithvi missile.

[Begin Dr Arunachalam recording] The sky was very cloudy; the missile performed admirably. It followed the path we set for the missile and reached the target very accurately. This makes us feel very confident about our ability to put these missiles into the hands of our Army and the Air Force as soon as possible. Already, the Army has placed orders for these missiles and we are confident that with this test firing, we will be able to deliver these missiles as soon as possible. [end recording]

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has congratulated the scientists and others associated with the successful second launch of Prithvi. A similar congratulatory message has also been issued by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant.

Petroleum Minister Meets With Soviet Oil Expert

BK2709145889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A senior expert in the Soviet Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry, Mr (V.I. Grefskiy), called on the minister for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt, in New Delhi today. They discussed the progress in the Indo-Soviet program for exploration of oil and gas in north Cambay, Cauvery, and West Bengal basins.

Guyana To Receive 100-Million-Rupee Credit

BK2809093289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] India will provide a 10-crore-rupee credit to Guyana. The amount will be used for financing export of capital goods and consultancy services from India and for key projects in the development of its economy. The projects include a paper recycling plant, a poly [polyethylene] sack project, and bicycle plant. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today between the two countries. Our correspondent reports that this is the first government-to-government credit given by India to Guyana following the Indo-Guyanese joint commission meeting held in New Delhi last January. The credit assistance is expected to provide a boost to bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Telecommunications Accord Signed With Pakistan

BK2309161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] India and Pakistan today signed an agreement for the introduction of digital transmission between Lahore and Amritsar. The agreement also provides for augmenting trunk circuits to meet the increasing demands of manual and international subscribers dialing traffic. It was signed at the sixth Indo-Pakistan telecom operational coordination meeting which concluded in Bombay today.

India also offered Pakistan transit facilities for manual or public switch traffic through its territory to neighboring Nepal, and Bangladesh.

World's First Super Minicomputers Inaugurated

BK2809092489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The world's first super minicomputers based on the revolutionary 486 chip were inaugurated by the planning minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, in New Delhi today. Developed by Indian companies, they have been installed at the Planning Commission and the headquarters of the National Informatics Center, NIC, as part of the nationwide computer communication network. On this occasion, Mr Solanki also dedicated to the nation a major information system developed by NIC. In his inaugural address, the minister said that NIC has already linked 380 district headquarters of the country to the NIC network. The remaining 60 districts will be completed in the next few weeks. [sentence as heard]

Television Transmitter Inaugurated in Aijal

BK2309164889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] A new high-power one-kilowatt television transmitter started functioning in the Mizoram capital, Aijal, today. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, inaugurated the new transmitter. It will cover areas in a radius of 50 km.

Speaking to newsmen in Aijal this evening, Mr Bhagat said Doordarshan will soon start a three-tier program service in the northeastern region. He said over 51 crore rupees have already been earmarked for this expansion program.

Rajasthan Television Relay Center Commissioned

BK2709060089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Professor K.K. Tiwari, has called upon the people to preserve the historical heritage and the dynamic civilization of the country. Commissioning a Doordarshan [television] relay center at Dig in Bharatpur District of Rajasthan yesterday, he said information and entertainment are the two most important aspects of Doordarshan. Professor Tiwari said a great change is taking place with the advent of television which now covers 75 percent of the country's population.

Agricultural Sector Records 'Phenomenal' Growth

BK2809094489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The growth of agricultural sector in the country has been phenomenal. The production of food grains and oilseeds has risen three times. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that food grains production which was 51 million [metric] tons during 1950-51 is expected to be 170 million tons during 1988-89. The midterm appraisal of the seventh plan stressed the need for a renewed thrust in agriculture with the objective of increasing agricultural production in spite of vagaries of the monsoon. Our correspondent adds 169 potential districts with dependable technology have been selected for maximizing food production. Efforts are being made for timely and adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Market support operations are also being strengthened.

Official sources also say that dairy production in the country has received a fillip with the setting up of dairy cooperatives in some parts of the country, with Gujarat taking the lead.

Pakistani Chief of Staff's Statement Assailed

BK2709095989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Aslam Beg's Bombast"]

[Text] Pakistan chief of army staff [General] Mirza Aslam Beg's latest statement will attract attention mainly because he speaks for the military of his country. Gen Beg has repeated well-worn positions of the Pakistan army; in the main, about India and Siachen, but also vis-a-vis its role in the domestic Pakistani affairs. He has boasted that the Pakistani army is capable of pushing the Indian forces south of the Siachen, and not only give a befitting reply, "but a bloody nose to it" should the "enemy cast an eye on us". There is nothing new for India to read into the familiar refrain. Gen Beg has hastened to add that his aim is not to start a war, and that Pakistan would have to decide whether it wants to pay the price for Siachen. The caveat is new, and suggests that Gen Beg probably is daring the civilian administration to pick up the bills of the military misadventure. Those in Pakistan who are ruffled by the current efforts to repair relations with India will be comforted by the General's bellicosity. A protege of the late Gen Zia, he has sought to resurrect the "enemy image" of India. In any case, his talk of "ejecting India", "meaningful preparations", "preemptive action", and "deterrent" is not the language of settlement of the Siachen dispute, and reflects no movement towards a negotiated solution. Gen Beg talks of Pakistan's biggest army exercise in December. The aim is to "test preparedness" and new weapons systems and new doctrines following the removal of the "main threat from the north-west" after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. This will re-emphasise Pakistan's preoccupation with India. Gen Beg is seeking to push the army's interests vis-a-vis Ms Benazir Phutto's government also. For, while declaring that the army was subordinate to the government in power, he wants the army "to provide the kind of security needed for the consolidation of democracy". By this Gen Beg appropriates to the army a continuing political role—now as the guardian of democracy. He says that the army, having learnt from experience, would not repeat the mistake of 1977. But the Pakistan military did not seize power in 1977 only. Is it the General's case

that the Ayub [President Ayub Khan who staged first military coup in Pakistan] military seizure was better than the Zia coup?

Iran

IAEA Representative Denies Bush CW Allegations

LD2709191989 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 27, IRNA—Head of Iran's atomic energy organisation 'Alireza Amrollahi Tuesday categorically denied President George Bush's allegations accusing Iran of producing chemical weapons and described them as "biased and baseless".

Amrollahi is currently here to take part in the 33rd annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Speaking to IRNA, Amrollahi who is also vice-president added that the U.S., due to its production and stockpiling of the arms, was responsible for the crimes by the deployment of chemical weapons.

"The U.S. and its allies are responsible for each and every person killed by these arms so far and should reply to the unanswered questions of world nations," he said.

Turning to Western countries cooperation with Iraq for producing chemical weapons, he said that last month's explosion at a chemical weapon's producing factory in southern Baghdad indicated that several Western countries closely cooperated with Iraq in this connection.

"Under present conditions, if we really want the chemical weapons to be collected and eliminated, international institutions such as the Non-aligned Movement should have complete supervision over the issue. Otherwise, the advanced industrial countries would not permit others to control them," replied Amrollahi to a question about a control system on the production and piling of chemical weapons.

Asked about the statements of a British source on the deployment of chemical weapons by terrorist groups, he said when these countries were the sources of distributing these arms then undoubtedly they would put the arms at the disposal of their smaller terrorist agents.

ABRAR on Accusations

LD2809122689 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Iran is determined to make peaceful use of atomic energy in construction of the country, said ABRAR in its editorial Thursday. Head of Iran's atomic energy organisation Reza Amrollahi Tuesday categorically denied the U.S. President's allegations accusing Iran of producing chemical weapons.

U.S., the biggest chemical weapons producer in the world, intended to block Iran's peaceful utilization of atomic energy during its reconstruction era by making such allegations, said the daily.

Such allegations by the U.S. is in fact a deterrent measure to create an atmosphere of distrust towards Iran in the world and prevent utilization of nuclear energy in reconstruction of the country," [quotation mark as received] the morning daily said.

Iran has requested the German companies previously working on the Bushehr atomic power plant, to complete the project.

More on the allegations, the paper said they are made without taking into account the findings of American researchers stating that Iraq is the biggest producer of chemical and biological weapons, only next to the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The question is that why no word is uttered on Iraq's production of chemical and biological weapons with the assistance of Western experts," [quotation mark as received] said ABRAR.

The silence is a complete surprise because the Baghdad regime itself has confessed to deployment of chemical weapons, the daily pointed out.

U.S. collaboration with the Iraqi regime in this regard is crystal clear, it said adding that accusing Iran which itself has been a victim of chemical warfare is absurd.

ABRAR concluded by saying that by making such accusations the U.S. aims at covering up its cooperation with the Iraqi regime in production of chemical weapons through these baseless charges.

Grand Ayatollah Araki Condemns Saudi Action

LD2709111889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Araki issued a message in which he condemned the crime committed by the Al Sa'ud rulers in martyring 16 Kuwaiti Muslims. He referred to the massacre of hundreds of pilgrims of God's holy sanctuary by troops of the Saudi regime on charges of raising their cry of disavowal against the infidels.

Part of the message says: Once again the Saudi agents beheaded 16 of the best children of Islam, the sincere Muslims and pilgrims to God's house, under vague accusations and added another black page to the thick volume of their black book. The message stressed: The 'ulema of Islam must not remain silent in the face of these acts of betrayal and the great deeds forbidden by Islam; they must raise their cry to inform the public, support Islam and the religion of God, and salvage the two holy mosques from the claws of colonialism and the government of blasphemy and hypocrisy.

Majlis Deputies Against Releasing Cooper

LD2709150889 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Some 110 Majlis deputies today sharply criticized a meeting here Monday between head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi and a relative of British spy Roger Cooper now serving his prison term in Iran.

In a letter to Justice Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Shushtari, the deputies called for explanations on the meeting and why it had been said after the meeting that Cooper might be pardoned.

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, a deputy from Qom, termed the meeting as "improper and valueless."

"If the release of Cooper had been in the interest of the revolution (the late) imam would have personally taken a decision in this regard.

"We cannot release a person whom the imam had not released... Cooper should remain in prison until his term is over," Khalkhali said.

Another deputy critical of the meeting was Ebrahim Asghazadeh from Tehran who questioned "why should we deal with the issue so simply, thinking that the meeting may change public opinion in Britain?... This will be interpreted by them as a weak point on our part."

Asghazadeh also attacked those favoring the resumption of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying this was unrealistic because Riyadh has always stood against the Islamic revolution since its victory in 1979.

Lily Cooper met Ayatollah Yazdi Monday. The meeting has sparked sharp criticism from the press and the parliament.

Daily Criticizes Yazdi's Remarks on British Spy

LD2809123189 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Thursday criticized Iranian head of judiciary branch for expecting the pardon of the British national Roger Cooper who is serving a jail sentence here on spying charges.

Majlis deputies have asked Justic Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Shushtari to brief them on a meeting earlier this week between Cooper and his sister-in-law and also on the statements made by the judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in this connection. Ayatollah Yazdi received Cooper's relative, Lily, Tuesday and expressed hope that he would be set free.

"The meeting reaffirms the humanitarian nature of the Islamic Republic system but the assertions made by the judiciary head during the meeting are deplorable," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The daily brought to attention the behavior of the British police and British legal system with the sons of the Islamic revolution, the shamelessness of the British regime in Salman Rushdie affair, in the Iraqi-imposed war and in all other aspects related to the Islamic Republic. It expressed surprise that despite all these, the Iranian judiciary had wished the freedom of a seasoned spy.

"It is expected that the judiciary head with proper explanation will enlighten the public and will reaffirm the fact that the Islamic Republic system will not forgive the spies who embarked on subversive actions against the system," the commentary concluded.

OPEC Urged To Set Aside Political Differences

LD2809085289 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday called on the member countries of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to give up their political differences and concentrate on economic issues only.

The daily said in its editorial that oil prices depended totally on the political atmosphere of OPEC meetings. That is to say prices fell when the organisation showed strains and differences while an upward trend was witnessed in prices when an atmosphere of agreement prevailed over OPEC meets.

Referring to the low level of political ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two strongest countries of the organisation, the daily called on other OPEC members to do their best to bring the viewpoints of the two major sides "closer to each other in the hope of reaching a compromise".

"This goal will not be achieved, however, until the shadow of political differences darkening the meeting lifts and moves away," stressed the English daily.

Khamene'i Meets With Tehran Clergy, Basij Members

LD2709210189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A group of combatant clergy, families of martyrs from northwest of Tehran, members of the Basij [Mobilization of the Oppressed] of Tehran's Meqdad's Base, a group of students and instructors from Khorasan Province's seminaries, various groups of people from Ardestan—accompanied by that town's Majlis deputy—officials and staff from the country's Customs Office, and a number of Lebanese Hezbollah brothers this morning met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

In that meeting, news of which has just reached us, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed the need for training, organization, and discipline in the Basij. He further warned about the efforts of Islam's enemies aimed at creating divisions among Muslims, and widening the ethnic and sectarian differences among them.

According to the same report, the meeting was accompanied by chants such as "God's hand is above our head, while Khamene'i is our leader," and "Khamene'i is the leader, he inherits from the prophet." In that meeting, our country's leader delivered a detailed speech in which he emphasized the necessity of defending Iran's revolutionary and Islamic society, terming it an ever-present and indispensible necessity. He graciously stated: Threats constantly exist against a revolutionary society. War is not always here however, and if the Muslim nation of Iran and the country's youth become members of the Basij and work in fields in order to be trained militarily and thereby maintain their readiness to defend their honor and identity, then such threats will not come to fruition, and the evil intentions of our enemies will not materialize.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i mentioned the point that the enemy's threats become serious and dangerous when society is weak or unable to defend itself. He graciously added: Through the blessing of the great leadership of the imam of the ummah, whose word and speech was the meaning and interpretation of Islam and the Koran, and through the blessing of people's faith in Islam and the revolution, as well as in the unity of expression and Koranic and Islamic education, our nation was able to stand firm and resist its enemies over the last 10 years. Consequently, our enemies, from East and West and the world-devourer the United States, failed to achieve any results from their ploys and aggressions.

He then pointed to the role of the Basij after the imposed war, and stressed the necessity to continue their strong presence. He then said: The Basij is not merely one of the armed forces of the country; rather it is the heart of the nation, because it can through training take up arms and defend and support the armed forces. The Basij must be taken seriously. The spirit of vigilance must be preserved in all of the country's organs, and military, industrial, religious, social, and educational centers.

The Vali-e Amr [guardian of the order] of Muslims stressed the importance of unity of expression among Muslims, graciously stating: The creation of breaches and differences is one of the methods that colonialists use in order to infilterate Islamic societies. For that purpose they have for years tarnished the body of Islam with their patent religions. Furthermore, with the weapon of their patent religions, such as Wahhabiyat [branch of Sunni Islam to which the Saudi Arabian ruling family adhere], they set out to create differences and discord among Muslims. On this issue His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then pointed out that in today's world of Islam, the flag and voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran have gathered all deprived and faithful Muslims. He graciously added: Today the hearts of all Muslims beat for a nation and a people whose slogan is that of Islam, and which follows the divine laws. For that reason, the enemies of Islam accuse us of fanaticism and of wishing to return to the past. They use all their abilities and means in order to tarnish the image of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In another part of the speech he described the pressures being brought upon the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of the fact that the system is an Islamic one. He graciously stated: On the day when the world feels that, God forbid, we are not serious about Islam and that we are ready to compromise, such pressures will come to an end. All the Muslims of the world consider Iran to be the epicenter of Islam and the real homeland for Islam. That is why their hearts beat for the Islamic Republic's system.

The leader of the Islamic revolution warned against the efforts of Islam's enemies aimed at widening the ethnic and religious differences among Muslims. He said: We must be careful, because the oil income of a country, which is famous as a servant of the United States and which is a well known black-faced associate of colonialism, is spent on creating discord among the Muslims. He then considered the solidarity of Muslims to be the primary condition for the elevation of Islam, adding: The proponents of Islam and the Koran, if they care for the respect and magnanimity of Islam, should be aware that the aim of using the pens, tongues, and sums of money—utilized to create discord among Muslims—in reality prevents the elevation of the word of Islam. All Shia and Sunni clergy, inside the country or abroad, must pay serious attention to that issue. If we strengthen the bonds of fraternity among ourselves and overcome differences, then the sharp end of the enemy's weapons will be rendered blunt.

In conclusion, the leader of the Islamic revolution, pointed to the presence of officials from the country's Customs Office in that meeting, graciously stating: in Mehrabad, customs, which is the gate for the arrival of foreign nationals, politeness, justice, hospitality, and the Islamic code of behavior must be fully displayed. The activities of the country's Customs Offices must be carried out in a more desirable manner.

In that meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sarfarazi—member of the central council of Tehran's Combatant Clergy Society—delivered a short speech in which he introduced those present at the meeting. He further beseeched God Almighty to grant victory to Islam and Muslims.

Addresses Commanders on Defense Week

LD2709222189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] On the 6th day of Holy Defense Week, which has been called the day of the epoch-makers, 58 commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and

the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who played a major role in the great and victorious "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operations and the liberation of Khorramshahr in the year 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1982] were honored today. They received the Fath [victory] Medal from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the leader of the Islamic revolution.

These ceremonies were attended by the ministers of interior, defense and support of the armed forces, and the Construction Jihad, as well as the directors of religious-political organization in the Armed Forces, the commanders of the security forces, the revolution committees, the police and the Gendarmerie. Afshar, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces in charge of human resources, gave a short speech describing the victorious operations leading to the liberation of Khorramshahr, which was a turning point in the history of the imposed war. [passage omitted]

Then Brother Shamkhani, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces in charge of intelligence and operations, talked about the details of the "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operations and the results achieved from those operations. [passage omitted] At the end of his speech he read out the names of 54 commanders of the bases, divisions, and combat-military units of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] who had participated in the great and victorious "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operations. They received their medals from the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among that group were Brother Mohsen Reza'i and Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi, the commanders of the Karbala' Central Headquarters in "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operations, as well as one of the relatives of the famous and heroic Basiji, martyr Hoseyn Fahmideh, who was described by Imam Khomeyni—sanctified be his noble soul—as a leader. They received the Fath Medal, First Class. Twenty-four commanders of the IRGC and the Armed Forces, and one of the members of the Construction Jihad received the Fath Medal Second Class. Thirty-one other commanders of the IRGC and the Armed Forces who had participated in the victorious "Beyt ol-Moqaddas" operations received the Fath Medal, Third Class. These medals were distributed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Then the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in a detailed speech, congratulated those who had received the Fath Medal and graciously said: This praiseworthy tradition is a clear and definite expression of appreciation to those whose self-sacrifice and efforts in the battlefronts have led to victories, and whose names will be forever recorded in history as a result of those efforts. This medal is a sign of the appreciation and gratitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward those beloved ones who, during the imposed war, rendered great and valuable service. However, what is most important is that these sincere and pure endeavors and jihads will always be before Almighty God, and will never be wasted, and God will give them good recompense.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, described the strength, magnificence and solidarity of the Islamic Republic's system as the outcome of the efforts of the fighters of Islam during 8 years of the imposed war and graciously said: Our history and our future will always keep a record of the work and efforts of the fighters of Islam.

In another part of his speech, referring to the importance of efforts to increase the strength and capability of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence said: The Armed Forces and the IRGC are two organizations, two armed wings in the service of the revolution and the Islamic Republic's system, each of which, in keeping with their duties, should strive to eliminate shortcomings and turn weakness to strength. The brilliance of each should be a lesson and a model for the other.

The leader of the Islamic revolution described the IRGC as a fighting, military organization, adding: The Armed Forces and the IRGC should work with each other and within the framework of their defined duties; they should equip and strengthen themselves. The General Command of the Armed Forces [setad-e farmandahi-ye koll-e niruha-ye mosallah], which has been composed of military figures, will administer Armed Forces affairs and will draw up their policies [as heard].

Addressing the commanders of the Armed Forces and the IRGC, our country's leader said: Threats against our revolutionary Islamic country have always existed and will continue to exist. However, when you are strong, unified, capable, trained, disciplined, and possess powerful human resources and popular trained and organized Basij forces, the threats of the enemies will never materialize. We attach importance to the strengthening of our forces, but we have not, and do not, threaten anyone. However, at the same time, we will stand firmly and strongly against those enemies who are not bound by any human principle.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces emphasized the need for continued sincerity and truthfulness among the Armed Forces and the IRGC and addressed the commanders of these two military organizations, graciously saying: You must take your defense mission on the border very seriously. The basis of the work of the military and the Armed Forces should be based on order and discipline. In that case, weapons and ammunitions will be effective. What separates a military division from a crowd of people is its discipline; you are responsible for increasing the discipline among your units.

At the end of his speech His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the character and special characteristics of the new commanders of the Armed Forces and the IRGC who were recently appointed by him, and stressed the need for cooperation and coordination among all military organizations with them.

Nurbakhsh Meets French Counterpart in U.S.

LD2709233189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Nurbakhsh, the minister of economy and finance who is currently in Washington, has met and conferred with the French finance minister. According to an IRNA report, in the course of the meeting Mr Nurbakhsh remarked on the French deputy foreign minister's recent trip to Iran which was aimed at resolving the two countries' financial differences, and proposed that after the settlement of these differences, a special framework should be established to promote economic cooperation between the two countries.

The French finance minister announced that based on mutual agreement, the export credit limits in the case of Iran will be dissolved. He also said improved relations between the two countries are among the priorities of French foreign policy. On the basis of the same report, at this meeting, the French finance minister remarked on the acceptance of the Resolution 598 by both Iran and Iraq, and reiterated: We would like to see perpetual peace in the region. In addition, he announced his countries readiness to participate in Iran's reconstruction projects.

Our country's minister of economy and finance, who is currently in Washington to participate in the joint World Bank and IMF session, also met and conferred with the economic ministers of Syria and Sri Lanka on Tuesday, and discussed bilateral cooperation with them.

Indian Official on Readiness To Help Afghanistan

LD2509180689 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Visiting First Deputy Minister of External Affairs S.K. Singh laid stress on Afghanistan's independence, and its being Islamic and nonaligned.

In a meeting with members of Afghanistan's Islamic Coalition Council here today, the Indian official announced his country's readiness to cooperate with Afghan people in their country's reconstruction.

Spokesman of the council Seyyed Zahir Mohaqqeq criticised India's previous stance vis-a-vis Afghanistan's Islamic revolution as well as Soviet Union's aggressions. Mohaqqeq called for compensation of India's past policies on the part of this country.

The Afghan people from all walks of life will participate in Afghanistan's future Islamic government, the spokesman said.

Mohaqqeq also called for negation of the Kabul regime by the Indian Government. The Indian official arrived here two days ago.

Yazdi Urges Full Implementation of Resolution 598

LD2809032589 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—"The Islamic Republic believes full implementation of all articles of the U.N. Resolution 598 is required to guarantee stability, peace and tranquility in the region," said head of judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here Wednesday.

"This does not mean that Iran will endure occupation of its territories by foreign [as received] for a long period," added the ayatollah in a message issued on the occasion of Holy Defence Week (September 22-28).

The judiciary head questioned international forums if they are not yet convinced that Iraq "has no respect for any resolution or any international regulation." He said "only through exertion of political, military and economic pressure, will Iraq be compelled to abandon aggression.

"After implementation of the first article of the Resolution (598), the Islamic Republic expects an immediate investigation into who initiated the war and determine which side is the aggressor," added the message.

Since Iran officially accepted the UN Security Council resolution in July 1988 the Iraqi Government has continued to occupy parts of the Iranian soil against the dictates of the resolution.

Iraqi POW's Permitted To Meet With Families

LD2709233289 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—On the occasion of "Holy Defence Week", a large group of Iraqi prisoners of war (POWS) in a prisoners camp here visited their families Wednesday morning.

Shedding tears of joy for meeting wife, sisters and children, an Iraqi POW, Nuri Reza Ibrahim, told IRNA that he was sincerely thankful to Islamic Republic authorities for their humanitarian act. Ibrahim, 40, was captured in warfronts in 1981.

Such meetings are taking place almost every month on the initiative of the commission in charge of POWS affairs.

During the meetings, Iraqi POWS freely talk to their relatives privately and without any limit. They also receive foodstuffs and presents from their visitors.

IRNA Notes 54 War-Damaged Cities, Towns Rebuilt

LD2509141689 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—The reconstruction work on 54 war-damaged cities and towns have been completed and the remaining 11 towns damaged during

the Iraqi-imposed war would be rebuilt by the end of 1991, the vice-president for executive affairs said Monday.

Hamid Mirzadeh said 77,927 urban and rural houses and business units damaged in the eight year old Iraqi war were rebuilt or repaired this year and work on 58,000 others would be finished in six months.

The vice-president said with reconstruction of a number of war-damaged power stations, 1,900 megawatt of electricity has been restored to the nationwide network.

Mirzadeh also listed towns and cities to be reconstructed within the next two years as Abadan, Khorramshahr, Bostan, Mehran, Dehloran, Marivan, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, Musian, Nowsud and Sumar.

67 Iraqi Deportees Seek Asylum in Bakhtaran

LD2509184889 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept. 25, IRNA—The Baghdad regime expelled 67 more Iraqi Muslims from the country Sunday night, who sought asylum in Iran.

The expelled group including women and children arrived in Iran on foot via Western Khosravi border.

Provincial officials of Bakhtaran have made necessary preparations to lodge the refugees in Bakhtaran camps.

New Governor of Khorasan Province Appointed

LD2809090289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] In yesterday's [26 September] Cabinet session, the ministers continued their discussion on the first project for the country's economic expansion. They approved four regulations on industrial and production facilities. According to a Central News Unit report, the appointment of 'Ali Jannati to the post of governor general of Khorasan was also approved. Tribute was paid to 'Abadini, the former governor general of that province.

According to the same report, the interior minister reported on activities in connection with the discovery of about 10 tons of gold which had been taken abroad as contraband. The Cabinet paid tribute to the Gendarmerie personnel and Interior Ministry officials for their alertness.

Pakistan

'Vigorous' Nuclear Energy Program Planned

BK2709132589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The government has decided to launch a vigorous program for the introduction of nuclear power in the country. This was stated by the chairman, Pakistani Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmed, while speaking on Pakistan's nuclear policy and programs at the annual general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna yesterday.

Reiterating Pakistan's full commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and elimination of all nuclear weapons, he said nuclear power represents a real hope of clean, safe, competitive, and inexhaustible energy option for developing countries. He said to deny them nuclear power in the name of nonproliferation and force them to use fossil fuels is to invite environmental disaster. He said in order to meet the growing needs of Pakistan's energy requirements, they [Pakistan] would seek cooperation of other countries for building nuclear power plants, finally developing indigenous capability in their designing and construction to achieve greater self-reliance.

Bhutto Regrets Punjab Interference, Insults

BK2709161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has announced that 40,000 people will be sent on pilgrimage [to Saudi Arabia] under regular scheme next year. There will be no limit on the number of those going on pilgrimage under the sponsorship scheme. She was addressing the concluding session of the 2-day national hajj conference in Islamabad this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Later, talking informally to newsmen, Benazir Bhutto underscored the need for strict adherence to the Constitution and said that if all parties follow the Constitution, then all problems will be resolved.

The prime minister regretted that the federal government is being insulted by threats [by Punjab provincial government] to set up its own separate bank, television, and water and power authority [in Punjab Province], and by its interference in the transfers of federal government employees. She said if the other side is ready to give up this attitude, an understanding and cooperation will be reached.

The prime minister expressed regret over the use of indecent language by the leaders of the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] at a public rally at Mochi Gate in Lahore and said this is the manner in which these leaders have reciprocated the federal government's efforts to ease tension and create understanding.

Benazir Bhutto recalled that the IDA had categorically stated on 25 November last year that they would not accept the people's verdict if the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] was voted to power. Their other statement is also on record that they will not allow the PPP government to work.

The prime minister said her government is in full control and is reviewing the situation carefully.

When asked as to how long her government will continue to tolerate the violation of its authority, the prime minister said: If the need arises, then action will be taken at an appropriate time.

Answering a question, Benazir Bhutto said the PPP enjoys a substantial majority in the National Assembly, and there is no need for the government to adjourn the current session of the National Assembly to forestall any move against it.

Bhutto Visits, Briefed at Army Headquarters

BK2709113489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, visited the [Army] GHQ [General Headquarters] in Rawalpindi this morning. She was welcomed by the chief of Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg. Later, a briefing was held for the prime minister at which a detailed discourse was given on matters pertaining to national defense. The minister of state for defense, Mr Ghulam Sarwar Cheema; the special assistant to the prime minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar; the adviser to the prime minister on defense, retired Maj Gen Imtiaz Ali; and the deputy chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General Ahmad Kamal Khan, also attended the briefing.

Nusrat Bhutto Leaves for Italy, UN Meeting

BK2709152989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto [Prime Minister Bhutto's mother] has left for New York where she will lead the Pakistani delegation at the UN General Assembly session. On her way to New York, the federal minister will go to Italy from where she will depart for New York on 2 October.

President Lauds Army Role in Democracy Restoration

BK2509133889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it desires peace not only in the region but all over the world. Addressing a darbar [function) at the Baluch Regimental Center in Abbotabad today, he said we are committed to safeguard our national integrity, dignity, and solidarity at all costs. He said the Pakistan Army is considered one of the best in the (?world) and it has given best performance even in the worst circumstances. The president lauded the role of army in the restoration of democracy in the country and said it has gained more dignity and popularity among the masses with this step.

Addressing the darbar, the chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, said politics is not the field of armed forces. Their main responsibility is to defend national borders. The chief of the army staff said the objective of the military exercise at the moment was to test the efficiency of the armed forces and provide technical training of modern warfare to the soldiers.

Sri Lanka

General Says Cease-Fire Holding Despite Incidents

BK2809084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 28 (AFP)—A government-declared ceasefire was generally holding on its second day Thursday [28 September], despite sporadic violence which left at least six people dead, an army general here said.

General Cyril Ranatunga told reporters that the response to the three-day truce with the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) was "good" and he was hopeful it would bring peace.

"The response is good. We had many more incidents on other days. There had been a shooting incident and arson. We haven't had a large number of people surrendering, but the ice has been broken," he said.

Gen. Ranatunga, who is also secretary to the Ministry of State for Defence, also said at the weekly Cabinet press briefing that militants had shown a "mixed reaction" to the truce, but he was optimistic that "peace will dawn very soon."

He said the rebels' ability to call strikes and work stoppages had been greatly reduced in last few days. "They are in disarray," he asserted.

Cabinet spokesman and Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe echoed the sentiments of the general, adding: "One month ago the question that was asked is whether the government will survive."

The minister said there had been no direct word from the rebels but he hoped they would eventually accept peace. "It is a very difficult and delicate task to put the pieces back. But we should not be unnecessarily pessimistic," he said.

Gen. Ranatunga said President Ranasinghe Premadasa would be meeting with opposition leaders Friday evening to review the situation before deciding to extend the ceasefire further.

He said all incidents reported to the military and police were passed on to a three-member ceasefire monitoring committee which is expected to advise on continuing the truce.

Even as the press conference was in progress, suspected JVP activists opened fire with small arms and ambushed a police jeep in southern Sri Lanka, security officials said.

They said police suffered no casualties, but their vehicle was badly damaged when it crashed into a tree after the shooting.

In another incident Thursday, a bomb exploded inside a bus in central Kandy District, wounding three people, and a bomb found in another bus was defused by the military, officials said.

Security forces were ordered to halt operations against the JVP from 0600 (0030 GMT) Wednesday. General Ranatunga said troops and police had honoured the truce.

He said reports showed that even anti-JVP hit squads had stopped their activities. "All these are good signs," he added.

Defence officials said more than 70 people had surrendered to security forces Wednesday, the highest number giving themselves up on a single day. Over 500 had surrendered in the past few months.

Gen. Ranatunga said a ceasefire between Indian troops and the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the island's Tamil-populated northeast was holding satisfactorily.

Indian troops are observing a truce with the LTTE as part of an understanding between the two countries to withdraw the foreign army from Sri Lanka by the end of the year.

Both the LTTE and the JVP are opposed, for different reasons, to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign led by the LTTE and which brought Indian troops to the northeast.

The Sinhalese JVP has been accused of killing over 4,500 people in the past two years. In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

No Major Violation Of Cease-Fire Reported

BK2809091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, no major violation has been reported so far in the 3-day cease-fire by the security forces against the extremist groups, including the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. Although there were a couple of incidents reported yesterday, the Cabinet spokesman and industry minister, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, told newsmen today that it is for the cease-fire monitoring committee to form a view whether they constitute a violation of the cease-fire. The secretary of the monitoring committee, Mr Lakshman De Mel, told the All-India Radio Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the committee headed by the retired justice, Mr Wanasundera, will tour Kandy and Anuradhapura areas tomorrow and meet the chief ministers of the central and north central provinces and other groups.

'Markedly Fewer' Violent Incidents Reported

BK2809032589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, stray incidents of violence and surrender of 35 Sinhala extremists marked the commencement of the 3-day cease-fire with the security forces since yesterday morning. Officials said the number of violent incidents reported yesterday were markedly fewer.

In Central Sri Lanka, a provincial council member was injured and two of his security guards killed in an attack by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists. Twenty-nine JVP extremists surrendered in Anuradhapura and six in Matale area. A few incidents of burning of government buses in the Northwestern Province have also been reported.

As already reported, a monitoring committee headed by the retired judge of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court, Mr Wanasundera, has been set up to report any violation of cease-fire to the president.

Leaflets Urge 'Misguided Youth' To Surrender

BK2609114089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1034 GMT 26 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—With the 72-hour suspension of countersubversion operations commencing tomorrow morning [27 September], the security forces this afternoon airdropped 100,000 leaflets countrywide calling on youth engaged in subversive activities to surrender. Official sources said the leaflets were being airdropped by Air Force helicopters in all parts of the island, except the north and east where the ceasefire between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] which came into effect on September 20, is holding. Sri Lankan security forces have declared suspension of operations for 72 hours commencing at 0600 hours (local time) tomorrow. This could be extended if the subversives reciprocate.

The leaflets airdropped this afternoon kindly request misguided youth to take advantage of the opportunity and give themselves up. The "kind request" says that these youth would have by now realised the futility of battling the security forces. The course of action pursued by them had resulted in the death of many and the wounding of many of their friends. "It is foolish to destroy your young lives in this way. You are destroying the future of the country's youth. You are obstructing the everyday lives of your parents, friends and the public. Destroying public property and buildings only causes

damage to the country's economy. Similarly, will not sabotaging the education of our youth lead to the creation of an uneducated generation? What liberation can be had from that?

"Take advantage of the opportunity and give yourself up at the nearest AGA's [Assistant Government Agent's] office. You will be warmly received there and fully protected. If you give yourself up with firearms, depending on the type of the weapons, you will be entitled to a maximum of Rs. [rupees] 20,000."

"Let's all get together in the cause of peace," says the leaflet signed by the "security forces."